

TOURNAMENT

# Sun Cities team to host lawn tourney

## Event will draw players from across the country

By Bill Pearson  
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

Since Sun City's inception, lawn bowling has played an integral role in the community's development.

DEVCO built seven greens in Sun City, a four-green complex in Sun City West and a single green in Sun City Grand. When combined with the spectacular winter, spring and fall weather, the West Valley becomes a popular destination for bowlers from across North America and, later this year, the world.

Beginning Saturday, Feb 10 lawn bowlers will converge on the West Valley to enjoy a week of continuous action. The women will be in Sun City at the Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., greens, with about 60 top lawn bowlers from around the country and locally. The men will showcase some of the best lawn bowls talent with 100 bowlers enjoying the lightening fast greens in Sun City West at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

All of this comes as the event is hosted by the South-Central Division and



Bowlers get in a little practice on the Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., lawn bowl greens during a tournament that drew players from across the county. The Sun Cities will team to host another event Saturday, Feb. 10. (Rusty Bradshaw/Independent Newsmedia file photo)

is their annual open tournament. This is one of the most popular venues across North America because Sun Cities greens are some of the best in the country and the weather is a welcome relief for so many.

The men's division will have two days of triples, two days of pairs and finish with two days of singles play. The women will follow the same two-day format beginning with fours, singles and pairs. In each case, the first day's action will place bowlers in flights to determine eventu-

al winners.

This event is a precursor of things to come. The South-Central Division was awarded the United States Open for both 2018 and 2019. Coming this November is the most prestigious lawn bowling event hosted in North America each year.

The event regularly draws 400-450 bowlers. The best of the best will converge on the Valley of the Sun with bowlers coming from half a dozen countries or more around the world. Starting in November, the week's non-

stop action will fill greens in 8-10 different locations.

Bowlers love this location because all Sun Cities greens are within 15-20 minutes of one another; the playing surfaces are top notch and the November weather will be simply perfect. All of which sets up to make it one smashing event.

Residents are encouraged to stop by the Sun City or Sun City West greens. The action will go on all day long.

**Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson, a Sun City resident, is an avid lawn bowler.**

VF - SC Lawn Bowling

V F S C Lawn Bowling

# SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 57, No. 13

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

yourwestvalley.com

## ACTIVITIES

# BOWLING RIGHT ALONG

### RCSC officials to budget lawn bowl repair

By Rusty Bradshaw  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Amid a Recreation Centers of Sun City hold on capital improvement projects, lawn bowlers want repairs to one of their playing greens.

Resident Bill Pearson believes the Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., lawn bowl greens are in the worst shape of Sun City's four facilities, despite having been rebuilt five years ago.



Bill Pearson

RCSC officials spent about \$600,000 in two separate projects to rebuild the greens and construct a building next to them. About one-third of that amount was donated by resident Helen Teichman.

"We want that green fixed," Mr. Pearson told board members in the March 13 member/director exchange meeting. "You could do Bell and the Lakeview greens for less than



Lawn bowlers begin a game at the Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., greens March 15. The greens were rebuilt from the ground up five years ago but are now experiencing some settling. [Independent Newsmedia/Rusty Bradshaw]

\$50,000."

RCSC officials are aware of the issues at the Bell green, and the cost to repair them. Joelyn Higgins, RCSC com-

munications and marketing coordinator, said outside rinks have settled and slope toward the ditches, affecting the bias of the bowls.

"A contractor has given a high estimate of \$40,000 for Bell," she explained.

There are similar issues at the Lakeview Recreation

Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., lawn bowl greens. But those issues will be handled in-house with aggressive sum-

» See Bowl on page 3

## Bowl

» From page 1

mer agronomic practices, Ms. Higgins explained.

Not all lawn bowlers have a low opinion of the Bell greens. Steve Bezanson of Nova Scotia believes Sun City's greens are the best in the country.

"I have bowled all over the country and Canada, and the Sun City greens are the best I have played on," he said. "That's why I come down here, to play on these greens."

A former groundskeeper, Mr. Bezanson said settling on lawn bowl greens is common. However, he does believe RCSC groundskeepers put too much water on the greens, which slows the bowls.

"They make the same mistake as in Canada, they make them as visually beautiful as possible," Mr. Bezanson said. "But what we want is brown grass with as little snap as possible."

Mr. Bezanson also said when greens are rolled, rollers should be cleaned more often because they leave clumps of grass behind. But he was quick to point out he was not faulting RCSC staff's efforts.

"They work really hard, they are out here at 6 a.m.,"

he said. "They just need a little guidance from people who really know lawn bowl greens."

Mr. Pearson said he understands RCSC officials are under pressure not to spend money because of the pending litigation regarding fees.

"But I have heard Jan (Ek, RCSC general manager) say, 'If we don't fix it on the front end it will cost more on the back end,'" he said.

RCSC officials put on hold two major capital improvement projects scheduled for 2017 in its long range plan due to the lawsuit brought by resident Anne Randall Stewart and 38 other plaintiffs. However, long range plan projects for 2018 and beyond remain on the schedule, according to Ms. Higgins. Long range plan projects are funded with the Preservation and Improvement Fund, but work to correct issues at the lawn bowl greens can be funded through operational maintenance funds, according to Ms. Higgins.

"The work on Bell is not budgeted this year," Ms. Higgins stated in an email. "However, we will be reviewing the budget to determine when this can be completed."

She stated ideally the work



### Burrows highlights Desert Garden fellowship dinner

Celebrated performer T.A. Burrows will highlight the March 28 fellowship dinner at Desert Garden United Church of Christ, 18818 N.128th Ave., Sun City West. Burrows has performed in Las Vegas and shared the bill with The Temptations, Patti LaBelle, Earth, Wind and Fire, Chicago, and Bob Hope to name a few. A 50s diner menu will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by Burrows' performance at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and reservations and payment must be made at the church office by noon on Thursday, March 23. [Submitted]

on Lakeview would be handled this year and in a worst case scenario Bell would be budgeted for next year.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or [rbradshaw@newszap.com](mailto:rbradshaw@newszap.com). Continue the discussion at [www.yourwestvalley.com](http://www.yourwestvalley.com).

VFSC Lawn Bowling No source, date



Photo courtesy of Del E. Webb Development Company

*AN ACTIVE RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE. Although golf is generally considered the number one sport in Sun City, lawn bowling is not far behind in popularity and participation. Pictured here in a photo taken during the early 1960s are lawn bowlers at Town Hall South Recreation Center, later renamed Mountain View Center.*

## Lawn bowlers worried about losing Oakmont

NORA AVERY-PAGE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City lawn bowlers reiterated their concerns Thursday over the possible closure of the lawn bowling green at Oakmont Recreation Center.

Lawn bowler Norm Dixon, speaking during the Recreation Centers of Sun City board meeting, told the panel that the green gets more use than tennis or pickleball courts around the community.

Dixon, who also asked to see the data used to reach such a decision at the member exchange earlier this month, again told the board he want-

ed to see the facts.

"We have yet to receive that data," Dixon said.

After lawn bowlers came out in droves for the November member exchange to express their displeasure over the proposal, the board issued a press release detailing their decision to now keep the green open until at least the end of the season on April 30, and the board said it "will provide a specific charter to the Lawn Bowling Advisory Committee in time for their December meeting asking them to come up with some resolutions regarding specific issues with

Sun City lawn bowling."

RCSC board president Vance Coleman asked the lawn bowlers if they had any new comments, but urged them to wait for the committee meeting in December to work through the issue.

But the lawn bowlers are not just going to show up to one meeting and give up on the issue, they said during Thursday's comments.

While the lawn bowlers said that there was no communication from RCSC over the possible closure, the board contends it was always in discussion to close one of the

greens once the new artificial grass green at the newly renovated Fairway Recreation Center opened.

Lawn bowlers, such as Bob Christie, a snowbird from Canada, argue the lawn bowling greens in Sun City are a huge draw to people from around the country and internationally.

"The grass greens at Oakmont are the best in the country," Christie said.

Coleman said the board has to make difficult decisions about how they spend money, and he hopes to continue to work with the lawn bowlers to find a solution.

# CARD AND LOT FEES

## RCSC raises rate for singles, others

By Geno Lawrenzi  
Independent Newspapers

Richard Pavaglio is upset and he does not care who knows it.

It bothers the Sun City resident that people who purchased their homes after Feb. 2, 2003, must pay higher per lot assessment fees than those who lived in the community previously.

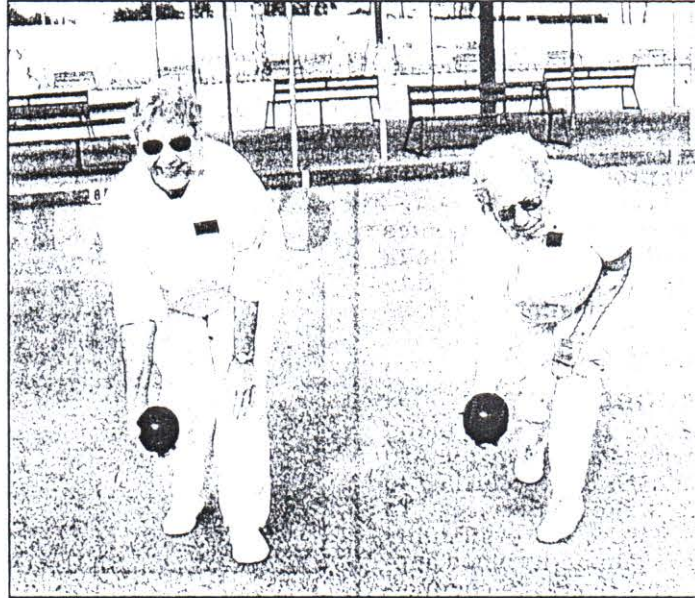
In a letter to the Independent newspapers, Mr. Pavaglio pointed out the following:

- Under new rules, buyers will pay a mandatory annual per lot assessment of \$300 on the purchase, acquisition or transfer of property.

- As of Feb. 1, 2004, recreation card fees will be raised to \$330 for singles and \$165 for all others.

"This is an unfair fee (for single owners)," said Mr. Pavaglio. "(It represents) an unfair double fee for singles and may be in violation of state and federal unfair pricing laws. This fee definitely discriminates against single owners, the majority of whom are women and can least afford higher rates."

He claimed the fee schedule also violates Sun City



Lawn bowling attracts as many women as it does men. Dorothy Hallas and Marge Vandergiessen show their style at Bell Lawn Bowl Club where they are members. Lessons are free at the Sun City Lawn Bowls Clubs. For more information, call 876-9141 or 933-5848.

bylaws and cites Article 8, Section 5, which states, "All members shall have equal rights and privileges and shall be subject to equal responsibilities."

If other property is or was owned within the past 12 months, excluding investors, the buyer will be

"grandfathered in under the \$150 per person fee structure," said Mr. Pavaglio, who was self-employed prior to his retirement.

Mr. Pavaglio has printed an information sheet for res-

See Fees — Page 7

OVER

# Fees

Continued From Page 1

idents who bought their homes after Feb. 2, 2003, which urges them to go to the Sun City Recreation Center office at Lakeview Recreation Center and request a refund of \$150 on grounds the charge is unfair.

"The present fee schedule is unfair because it discriminates against widows, widowers and all singles," he said. "This is the group with the highest medical costs, lowest income and the group who use the facilities the least."

He noted as of Feb. 2, 2003, two owners would pay \$300 for a pair of recreation cards, while a single owner would pay \$300 for one card. If a spouse dies, the survivor would become the single

owner and pay the double fee for one card.

He wants the recreation board to write a new fee schedule that is fair.

If the board refuses, Mr. Paveglio said he will urge residents to band together as a class and put up the money to hire an attorney.

He said residents can get a list of new home buyers by calling John Wake at (480) 596-3851, or tap into the Web site at homesalenews.com.

If all else fails, Mr. Paveglio said he will form a citizens' committee to elect a board of new directors who support the old fee schedule.

The fee was changed from a per person to a per lot basis on assessment so the corporation would have a better idea as to what the revenues would be, said Jim Kuchler, president of the RCSC board

of directors.

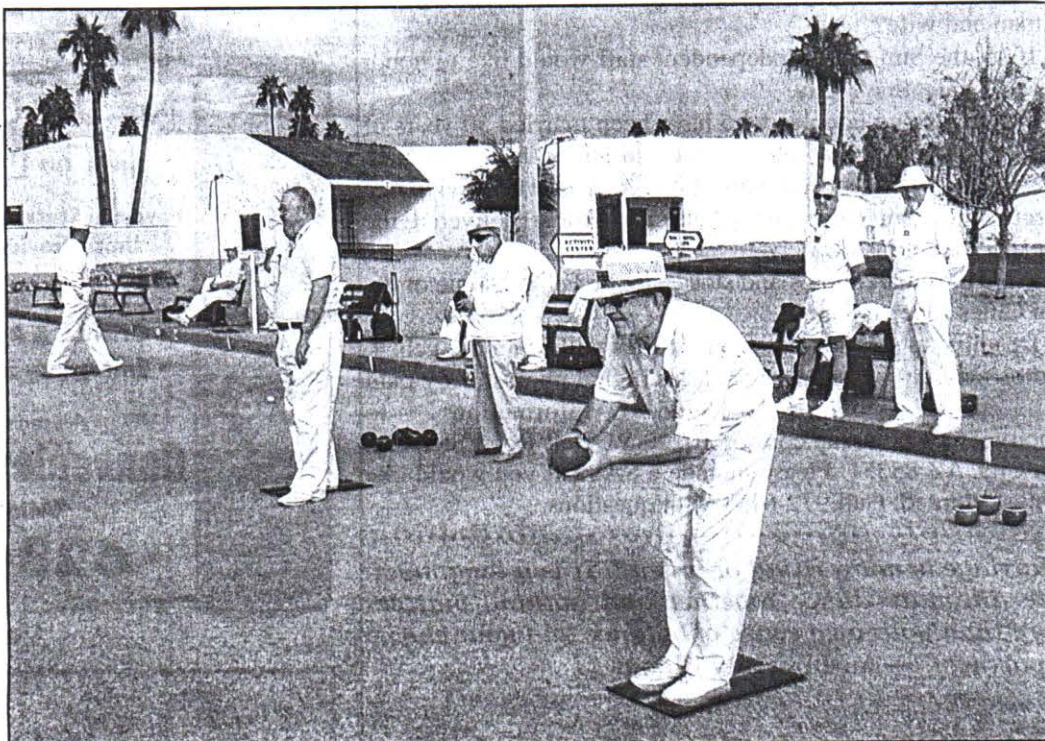
"We know how many lots there are but we don't know how many people," he added. "As for the charges of being unfair, we grandfathered the current residents into the new system of per lot. If there was a single person living on a lot, that person continued paying \$150 a year at that time. This year, we raised the assessment to \$330 per lot or \$165 per person if they were under the old system.

"This protects the single person from having to pay a double fee. We feel it is a fair way of assessing fees."

In 1961, the community association charged \$40 per

lot. A year later, it was changed to a per person basis and the per lot assessment remained that way until 1992 with the dollar amount going up to meet rising costs.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time anyone has challenged the legality of our fee process," said Mr. Kuchler, a retired U.S. Air Force Major.



Photos by Geno Lawrenzi/Independent Newspapers

George Tucker lines up for a roll at the Bell Lawn Bowl Club. Like his fellow members, Mr. Tucker enjoys the fresh outdoor atmosphere, the sociability and the challenge of beating his fellow bowlers. As of Feb. 1, recreation card fees will be raised to \$330 for singles and \$164 for all others.

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

## LAWN BOWLING

'I get teased a lot. Other players don't want to let an old lady beat them.'

Vi Anderson, who turns 95 Saturday

# ONE FOR THE AGES

## Oldest Sun City lawn bowler turns 95 Saturday

**W**atch out for that old lady on the Sun City lawn bowling greens.

Vi Anderson turns 95 on Saturday and the oldest lawn bowler in Sun City plans to continue beating up on her younger competition.

"I get teased a lot," Anderson said. "Other players don't want to let an old lady beat them."

Anderson's lawn bowling victims shouldn't feel too bad. She learned the game as a 10-year-old in Scotland.

"I learned the game from my mother," Anderson recalled. "I used to sit at the edge of the green and watch. I told her I could do that and after she finished with her game one day, she let me try.

"A couple of men challenged us to a match when they saw the two of us, but we beat them."

A family tradition began that day near her childhood home outside of Glasgow.

There have now been five generations of lawn bowlers in Anderson's family, including her two great-grandsons, who began rolling lawn bowls on their living-room carpet in California when they were 1.

Only her family's move to the United States

threatened to break the lawn-bowling string.

Anderson was 16 when her family moved to the United States in 1924.

"We moved because of all the wars over in Europe and because there was more opportunity over here," said Anderson, a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Unfortunately, there weren't many opportunities to lawn bowl in Anderson's new country.

She didn't play the sport again until 1985 when she discovered a lawn bowling club in Tacoma, Wash.

"It was great and I picked up the sport just like I did when I was a little girl," Anderson said.

Until that time, Anderson had dedicated herself to 10-pin bowling, accumulating more than 60 trophies and once rolling a 278 game which featured 10 consecutive strikes.

"I've always been athletic," she said. "I played basketball in high school and used to ice skate."

Family ties would play another key role in



**RICH  
BOLAS**

Anderson's decision to move to Sun City in 2001.

Anderson's daughter, Myra Wood, visited Sun City for a lawn bowling tournament in 1989.

"I went back and told her it was a senior playground with walls," said Wood, who decided to move to Sun City and then convinced her mom to join her.

Anderson usually bowls every day of the week, frequently with her daughter.

And those great-grandchildren who learned to play the game as toddlers?

They are now ages 10 and 12.

"They can't wait to come out here and bowl with my mom and me in Arizona," Wood said. "Now they can beat us."

Those youngsters might be in for a surprise when they go up against Anderson.

As many opponents can attest, that old lady has game.

*Rich Bolas is the sports editor of the Daily News-Sun. He can be reached at 876-2523 or via e-mail at rbolas@aztrib.com.*





Vi Anderson, right, of Sun City turns 95 on Saturday. She frequently goes lawn bowling with her daughter, Myra Wood, who also lives in Sun City.

MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

---

DAILY NEWS-SUN • FRIDAY, SEPT. 20, 2002

---

## 6 lawn bowlers head to U.S. Championships

STAFF REPORT

Six lawn bowlers from the Sun Cities are slated to participate in the U.S. Championships, which will be played Sunday through Thursday in Walnut Creek, Calif.

**Annette Schans, Dora Stewart, Doris Leibbrandt, Tom Stirrat, Jack Behling and John Stewart** will represent the South Central region at the national championships.

They will be among 42 men and women who qualified by winning playdowns in their divisions. There will be competition in men's and women's pairs and singles. Seven rounds of lengthy round-robin games, with playoffs on Thursday, will determine the six champions for this year.

A closer glance at the Sun Cities players:

● Schans of Sun City will be competing in women's singles for the first time at the U.S. Championships. She has been a lawn bowler since 1995.

● Stewart of Sun City has twice won the U.S. Women's Pairs, most recently with her current partner, Leibbrandt. Stewart is a member of Team USA.

● Leibbrandt of Sun City West is making her third appearance in the U.S. Championships. Leibbrandt has bowled for Team USA for the past two years and is a representative on the U.S. Lawn Bowling Association's national council.

● Stirrat of Sun City will be bowling in singles for the seventh time at the U.S.

Championships. The retired contractor won singles in 1999 and finished second in 1994 and 1997. Stirrat participated on a triples team at the 1990 National Open which featured his father and son.

● Behling of Sun City will be making his eighth appearance in the U.S. Championships. The retired Milwaukee firefighter will participate in pairs with Stewart. Behling was named Bowler of the 1990s by the U.S. Lawn Bowls Association for his decade of lawn bowling achievements.

● Stewart of Sun City has bowled in 12 previous U.S. Championships and won pairs twice. Stewart and Behling placed second in the national tournament last year.

# Uniform attracts lawn bowler

## Gentle nature of game keeps him interested

By **Kenn Gorr**  
Independent Newspapers

Like many Sun City lawn bowlers, Bob Coulson was simply looking for something to do when he first picked up the sport. Unlike many others, however, Mr. Coulson did not pick up the sport because he heard it was fun. To be sure, he enjoys the sport, but the Corvette lover was attracted to the sport because something caught his eye.

That something was the all-white uniforms lawn bowlers wear while they're competing.

Mr. Coulson said he noticed the white-clad bowlers scattered around the green at the Town Hall Lawn Bowl Club, while he and his wife, Alyce, were driving around looking for a home.

"As soon as I saw them, I asked what that was," Mr. Coulson recalled. "The whites draw attention and get us more bowlers. That's what we want. They got my attention."

Shortly after a brief introduction to the sport, in the form of a demonstration at the club, Mr. Coulson started to play the game regularly.

"They had trouble getting

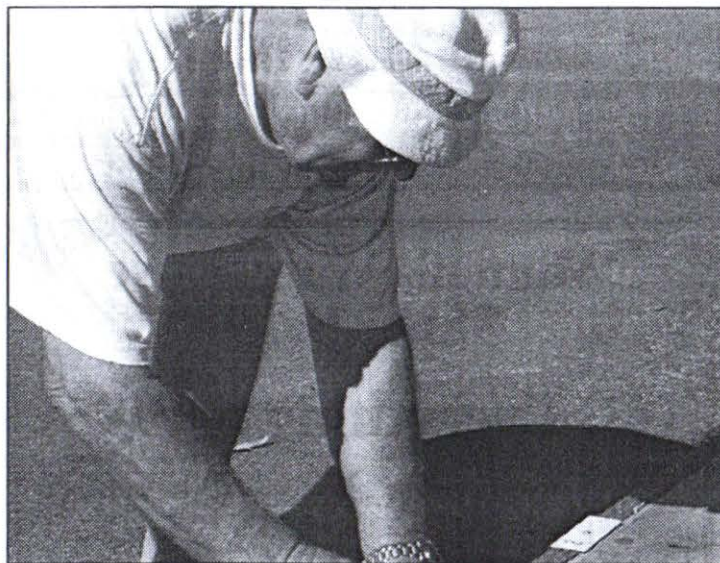
me off the mat," the longtime civil servant said.

Lawn bowlers earn points by rolling their bowls across a long, close-cut green (lawn) measuring 120 feet across. The target is a Jack (a small white ball). The two bowls closest to the ball earn points.

Mr. Coulson rose rapidly through the ranks, and earned the title Skip at the Bell Lawn Bowls Club.

A Skip is an advanced bowler, who acts as the captain of two-, three-, or four-person teams. Lawn bowlers

See **Bowler** — Page 3



Photos by Kenn Gorr/Independent Newspapers

**Bob Coulson paints marks on the cement near the green at the Bell Lawn Bowls Club. The marks tell lawn bowlers where to line up before they bowl. The Sun City resident is a Skip (Captain) at the club, but humbly classifies himself as an average bowler.**

## Bowler

Continued From Page 1

can also compete in singles events, and can hold different ranks at different clubs.

Despite his quick rise at the Bell Lawn Bowls Club, Coulson considers himself to be an average bowler.

"I have a good time bowling at any position," Coulson said. "I'm rated as a Skip, but

I'm just an average bowler."

Bowlers start out as Leads, which is a politically correct term for a beginner, and can advance to Vice Skip, and finally Skip, after peer reviews between each level.

Mr. Coulson, who said people often ask him if he is related to the infamous Chuck Colson, who rose to notoriety during the Watergate scandal that brought down the administration of

former President Richard Nixon, said he enjoys bowling with his wife. And he is not related to the former Nixon staffer who did time in prison for his role in Watergate.

"She's a natural," Mr. Coulson said of his wife with a smile. "A lot of the fellas were teasing me that I had better watch out."

Mr. Coulson said health problems have limited the couple's playing time over the past year, but he tries to get

on the green at least twice a week, while his wife continues to recover from an assortment of ailments.

"I can't bowl as much as I used to because I have arthritis and bad knees, but I look forward to it," Mr. Coulson said. "One of the great things about this game is before every game, everyone shakes hands. Then you compete, and afterwards, you shake hands again."

"That adds to the game."

APRIL 3-9, 2002

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# SC lawn bowlers favor consolidation plan

By Mike Russo  
Independent Newspapers

A suggestion to consolidate lawn bowling activities at one recreation center won the overwhelming endorsement of Sun City lawn bowlers last week.

An opinion poll conducted March 26 at Lakeview Recreation Center revealed that lawn bowlers favored the move by a 210-62 count, according to Jerry Cobb, president of the Bell Lawn Bowls Club, the largest of the community's five clubs, with 300 members. Approximately 500 Sun Citians participate in lawn bowling.

Currently the five lawn bowling clubs play on seven greens — two each at Bell and Lakeview and one each at Fairway, Mountain View and Oakmont. A plan is being studied by RCSC management that would consolidate all the greens at Bell, creating an unprecedent-

ed lawn bowling complex.

The proposal would close the greens at all the recreation centers with the exception of Bell, where four greens would be added, bringing the total number of greens at the facility to six. The two existing greens would be upgraded.

"They have to know our interest level before proceeding," Mr. Cobb said. "Bell is the only place they could put in a total of six greens."

"It presents a national presence that does not exist anywhere in the United States or the world," said RCSC General Manager Earl Feierabend of the suggested consolidation.

"It offers the community a complex that would attract homeowners," opined Jim Jones, president of the Sun City Lawn Bowls Clubs. "It would be one of the finest lawn bowling facilities in the United States."

Not only would consolidation bring recognition to Sun City, it would result in reduced maintenance costs for the greens, according to Mr. Feierabend.

"Maintenance of the greens is very important," Mr. Cobb said. "When the greens are nice, people enjoy it and want to play.

"I think this is very favorable," Mr. Cobb added.

The opinion poll results were greeted enthusiastically by Mr. Cobb.

"It opens opportunities," he said. "It gives Sun City some newness. We are in favor of it and hope it happens.

"We would like to see Sun City renewed," he added. "Earl (Feierabend) is a very progressive man."

The suggested lawn bowling consolidation would be done in conjunction with the development of a tennis complex, likely at Marinette Recreation Center.

"There are currently four

courts at Marinette," Mr. Feierabend said. "We would be able to expand that to eight outdoor courts and four indoor courts.

Six of the eight tennis courts at Bell would have to be removed to make way for two of the new lawn bowling greens. The other two greens would displace 40 spaces in the parking lot.

"This is a project under consideration," said Jerry Swintek, RCSC board president. "There needs to be a lot of study before the board decides to undertake the project. We try to get some input from the public as we do things."

Funding for the lawn bowling and tennis complexes would come from the Capital Preservation, Mr. Swintek noted.

If plans proceed, the projects would be undertaken in 2003 or 2004, Mr. Feierabend said.

No cost estimates have been developed for the projects.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, March 29, 2002

## RCSC mulls tennis, lawn-bowling solutions

**OPERATIONS MANAGER:** Plan would expand, update facilities

**JOHN SOKOLICH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's tennis and lawnbowling facilities likely will undergo some shifting and expanding in the next two years.

In an effort to expand and upgrade existing lawn-bowling and tennis facilities, centers Operations Manager Earl Feierabend has proposed moving and expanding the tennis courts at Marinette Recreation Center to eight courts, with four being indoors. Also upgraded at the center would be locker rooms and facilities to accommodate the expansion.

Feirabend presented the proposal at Thursday's

Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors meeting, which also included a presentation from the board treasurer about the RCSC's continuing financial problems.

The proposal for tennis came on the heels of the lawn-bowling clubs asking the RCSC to upgrade existing bowling lawns. Under the proposal, all lawn bowling would be moved to Bell Recreation Center, and six of the eight tennis courts there would be eliminated to make room for bowling.

"There are many advantages to doing this," Feierabend said. "All of it can be done if a lot of details are worked out."

Other than the initial planning mentioned at the meeting, specific details, such as costs, have not been determined.

**See Projects to, A6**

### From A1

"If all of the details get worked out, we are looking to budget the projects for either 2003 or 2004," Feierabend said. "Once budgeted, the projects would begin in that same year."

RCSC President Jerry Swintek said the money for the expansions and upgrades would come from the community's Capital Preservation Fund, which is accumulated from a one-time fee charged new-home buyers in Sun City.

"This money would not come from the annual fees," Swintek said. "That's why we have a Capital Fund, to make these projects a reality. These projects are to make Sun City not only be the first Sun City, but also the best Sun City."

The sole motion at Thursday's meeting also centered on the Capital Preservation Fund. The motion was to upgrade the wording of the board policy that instituted the fee, closing some of the loopholes and specifying what types of dwellings are subject to the fee.

"What the motion does is define the various types of ownership," said Director James Frederick, who made the motion. "It closes some of the loopholes, because in the past there were a few people who didn't have to pay the fee because of the loopholes."

The motion passed unanimously, with Frederick, Beverly Davis, Bud Hantke, Dorothy Hirtzel, Art Little, Tom Whiston and Gene Zylstra voting in favor of it.

The 100 or so residents in attendance at the meeting did not complain about the motion, but expressed concern that the loopholes did create a problem. Frederick said all the loopholes have been closed, including the one that dealt with investment properties being omitted from the earlier version of the policy.

The RCSC will hold two study sessions in April. An informal session is scheduled for 9 a.m. Monday in Social Hall 3 in Lakeview Recreation Center, 105th Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard. A formal study session is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 15 in the board room on the upper level of Lakeview.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

AUGUST 8-14, 2001

# SUN CITY IS ROLLING

## SC lawn bowl clubs offer play, instruction and tournaments

By **JEREMY PEARLMAN**  
Independent Newspapers

Opportunities abound for Sun Citians interested in lawn bowling.

Not only does the sport offer a chance to wear a nifty, all-white outfit, but with five different chartered clubs playing on the Lakeview, Bell, Oakmont and Fairway Mountainview greens, lawn bowling offers residents the opportunity to socialize with some 500 other fellow bowlers and compete on a daily basis, all without necessitating the need to purchase a vehicle or clubs such as another popular sport offered in Sun City.

Peggy Corrado, bowler and publicist for the booster organization of the five different chartered clubs, is a major supporter of the sport in the community.

"We have some of the best greens in the country," Mrs. Corrado said. "We have had some Canadians come bowl on our greens and then buy homes down here."

Lawn bowling, simplified, is a sport in which bowlers spin a spherical bowl in attempts to roll closest to a smaller ball, called a jack.

The game is played on a grass playing field, called a green, which is divided into rinks. The green length can vary.

While there are variations in the number of bowlers who play at the same time, it is not a requirement to have a designated partner or a spouse to play at the Sun City greens.

"You don't need a partner to play this game," Mrs. Corrado said. "You can just show up."

For those individuals with a competitive spirit, the clubs offer all kinds of tournaments throughout the year, some just local and others open to anyone.

The five clubs do have a few requirements for players. Bowlers have to wear a traditional all-white outfit. While no T-shirts are allowed to be worn, white shorts can be.

Flat bottom shoes are also required for all bowlers in order to protect the greens.

The five clubs are open to all Sun Citians. Playing on Monday at the Lakeview greens, the Sun City Lawn Bowling Club allows anyone

from surrounding communities to play who are members of the U.S. Lawn Bowling Association.

Residents can become members of any or all of the five clubs.

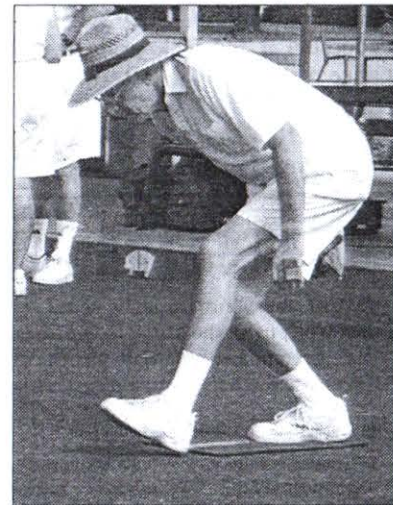
The booster organization offers year-round classes and instruction on how to play the game.

Over the summer some members have even offered some one-on-one teaching.

The lawn bowling regular season and hours begin in October.

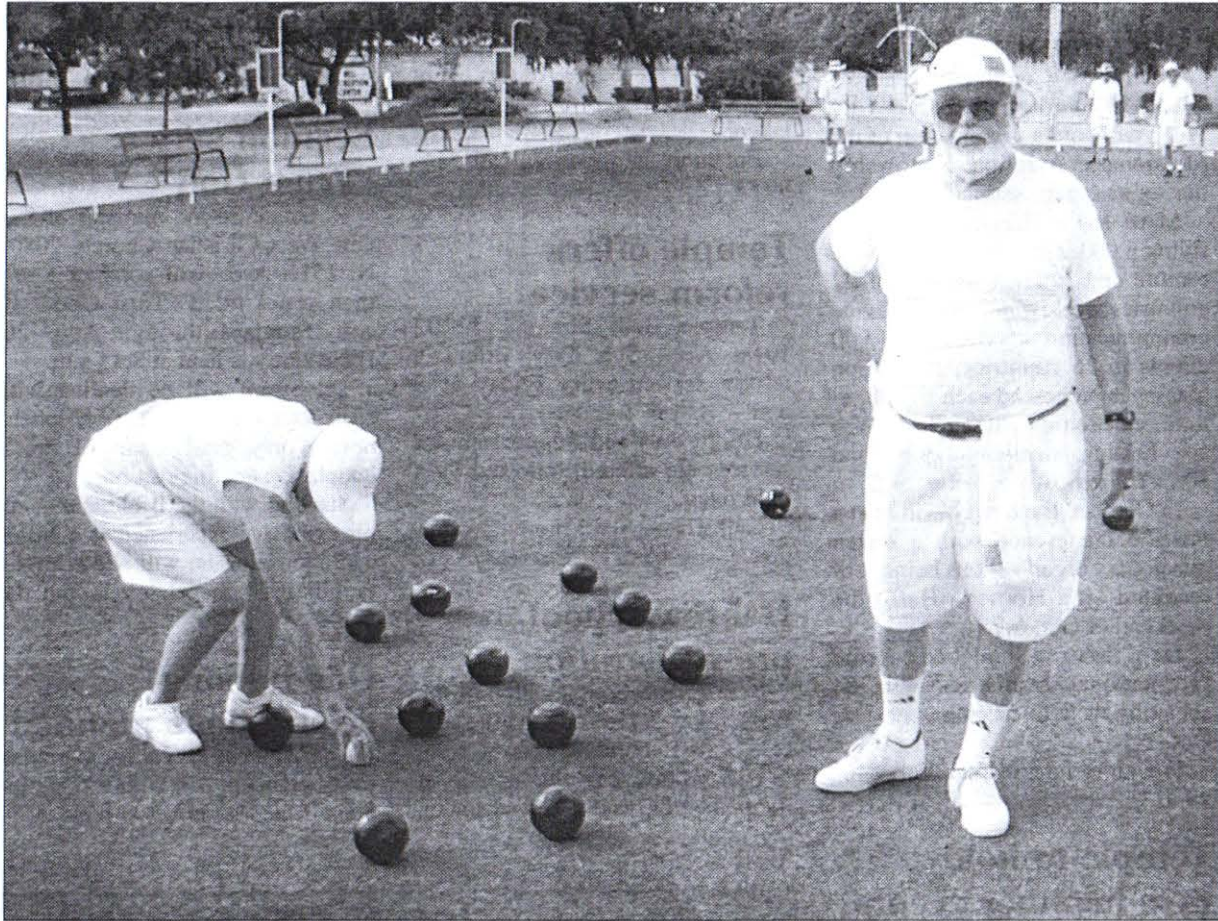
There are three clubs offering morning and evening play on various days.

For summer instruction information and all other information, call Jerry Cobb at 583-0689.



Summer heat does not deter lawn bowler Jim Bair, a member of the Bell Lawn Bowling Club. He and his lawn bowling buddies hit the greens early each Wednesday morning to beat the heat.

OVER



Photos by MIKE RUSSO/Independent Newspapers

Peggy Salisbury picks up the jack, under the watchful eye of Bill Goforth, after checking scoring during a lawn bowling contest at Bell Recreation Center greens. The duo are members of the Bell Lawn Bowling Club, which continues to pursue its passion, despite the summer heat.

# U.S. lawn bowlers train in Sun City

2-19-01

By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

The United States women's international lawn bowling team will practice at the Bell Recreation Center on Saturday and Sunday as it prepares for a major summer tour to compete against the best teams in the world.

The 10-woman team includes two players from Sun City, Doris Stewart and Doris Leibrant, and the manager, Roberta Lane, is from Sun City West. Practice sessions are scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon, and later in the day the players will compete against invited participants in game situations.

The center is at 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

The team will play in South Africa on May 17-19, go to Canada in August, and then conclude its jaunt at a later date in Australia. There are three events in the tournaments, with 10-player teams in Montreal, and five to a side in the other two tournaments. About 20 teams from around the world will compete.

"I think we have a chance of medaling," said coach Peter Fish, who recently won a divisional singles championship. "But other countries are way ahead of us in terms of public facilities. When you look at our situation, all of our facilities are in retirement centers."

Fish, who began lawn bowling as a youngster in England, lives in Peoria. He said that during this training weekend he will try to take the team to a more-advanced level, to have them do and think about things that normally aren't associated with local events, such as different international rules, gamesmanship, psychology and building up stamina to play in events that can last as long as 10 days.

There are no age restrictions on the teams. Some countries will have teenagers, while the U.S. team ranges in age from 34 to 60.



# Lawn bowling champ used to laugh at game

By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

In the 1980s, Jack Behling used to ride his bicycle past lawn bowlers in Milwaukee and just shake his head. Why, he wondered, would anybody play this. Goaded into trying the sport, he discovered he had a knack. And as if it were scripted, he recently was named the National Lawn Bowler of the Decade (1990s). Behling, 60, spent 34 years at the Milwaukee Fire Department and moved to Sun City in 1998. He was awarded the honor, presented for the third time, for being a part of the national championship teams.

"It's one of those things that you don't even think about because it happens only once every 10 years," he said. "The national organization has a historian who keeps track of people's wins and points.

"You don't set out to accomplish something like this. It's just one of the things that happens when you win tournaments."

His selection increases his chances of someday being voted into the Lawn Bowling Hall of Fame.

He almost missed his big moment at the awards ceremony in Irvine, Calif. There was no advance word, and he had to be talked into going to the opening festivities. While



The balls used in lawn bowling are smaller than those used in the conventional alley sport.

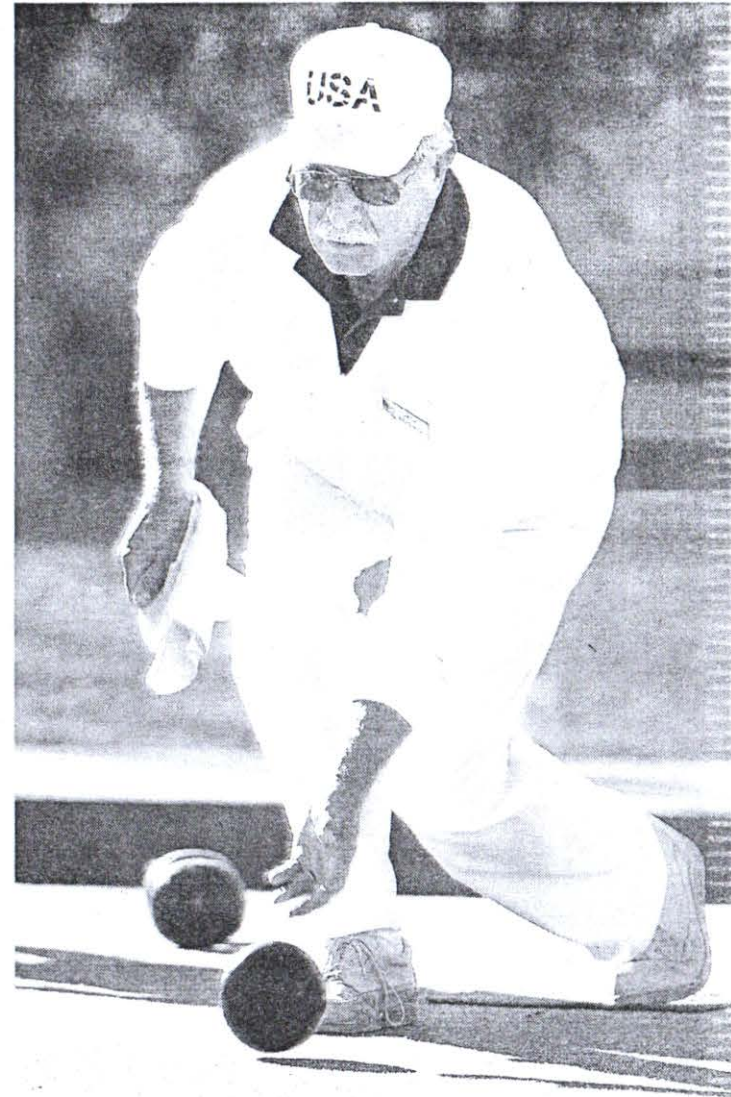
he and his wife, Donna, were standing at the back of the room, the names of the Bowler of the Year runners-up were being announced, and he was surprised that he didn't hear his name.

"Then when they got to who was number one, my mouth almost hit the floor," he said. "Everybody was dressed real nice, and I just had on a pair of cutoff jeans and a T-shirt, and I had to go up there to accept the award.

"I told them that they could see that I really expected to get it."

He would have been the most surprised person of all had someone told him before he threw his first ball in 1980 that lawn bowling would become his passion.

"My wife and I and our three boys would go for bike rides through the park, and we'd see these funny people in white playing this dumb game," he said. "This went on for a year. We'd ride and then



Photos by Russell Gates/The Arizona Republic

**Named National Lawn Bowler of the Decade (1990s), Jack Behling, 60, has a chance at the Lawn Bowling Hall of Fame.**

stop to watch. The following spring, one man there said they had watched me laugh at them enough, now get out here and try it, and I fell in love with it immediately."

He said that the game is more competitive in Arizona than it is in the Midwest

because of the speed of the greens and that many of the country's better players have now settled in the Sun Cities area.

Reach the reporter at  
jim.gintonio@arizona  
republic.com or (602) 444-8380

# SC man receives national award

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jack Behling had no intentions to attend the pretournament festivities at the Men's National Open in California last month.

## LAWN BOWLING

His wife, Donna, didn't feel well, and Behling knew he would be able to socialize with his fellow competitors at the upcoming lawn bowling tournament.

At his wife's urging, Behling decided to drop in to the banquet at the last minute.

Good thing.

The American Lawn Bowling Association made Behling its guest of honor that night, selecting the Sun Citian as the national organization's bowler of the decade for the 1990s.

"I was just standing in the back of the room with a pair of jeans and a ratty T-shirt," said the 60-year-old Behling. "All of a sudden, they're calling my name as the lawn bowler of the decade and my jaw just dropped to the floor."

Behling received the decade honor based on points awarded for lawn bowling wins. He was just the third lawn bowler to receive such a distinction and the first to come from Arizona.

The retired Milwaukee firefighter has accumulated plenty of wins on the lawn bowls greens since being introduced to the sport in 1980. Those victories include two national pairs titles as well as a national triples title in 1996.

"I knew that I won some

events, but it wasn't like I was keeping track," said Behling, who moved to Sun City in 1998. "There is a lawn bowling historian who keeps track of that stuff."

Behling may have never begun lawn bowling if it hadn't been for bicycle trips to a park near his Milwaukee home.

"My wife and I and our three children would ride our bikes to this park and we'd always see these silly people dressed in white and didn't know what was going on," Behling said.

"The next spring we rode past them again and they asked if we wanted to stop watching and start playing."

Behling quickly donned the white apparel worn by lawn bowlers and found the sport to be a respite from the stressful job as a firefighter.

"It was a way to relax, especially on those days when I was ticked off," he said.

Behling has always been involved in athletics and still plays first base and pitches for Florencia Pizza in the Sun Cities Senior Softball League.

That athletic background has helped him succeed in lawn bowling.

"There's a lot of hand-eye coordination, more than people think," Behling said. "I probably improved by 75 percent where I was when I started playing."

"I used to think this was a run-and-gun game, but now I know you have to out-think opponents."

John Stewart said Behling's hunger to succeed plays a major role in his success.

"A lot of bowlers are afraid to succeed," said Stewart, who has been Behling's partner on several victorious pairs teams. "Jack has the desire to succeed."

(over)



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The American Lawn Bowls Association selected Jack Behling of Sun City as its national lawn bowler of the decade during the Men's National Open in California last month.

## Pair are residents of Sun City



Pat Shannahan/Special for The Republic

Dora Stewart and Tom Stirrat, both of Sun City, are world-class lawn bowlers.

# Lawn bowlers qualify for worlds

By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

For three generations, the Stirrat family of Pennsylvania has been rolling with the flow.

Lawn bowling has taken the family to numerous national and international tournaments, and Tom Stirrat, now living in Sun City, is preparing for one of the biggest meets in his career. He'll be part of an American team competing April 1-16 in the World Championships in South Africa.

He won't be the only Sun Citian going for the gold. In the women's division, Dora Stewart will be a member of the U.S. team competing in the World Championships in Moama, Australia, from Wednesday through March 26. Both are members of the Sun City Bowl Club of Arizona.

The game may look easy — after all, how hard could it be to roll a ball on the ground? — but it takes a deft touch to excel. The object is to get the ball, or bowl, as close to the white ball, or jack, as possible.

"A game can be determined by a matter of a half-inch or quarter-inch," said Stirrat, a former electrical and plumbing contractor who used to

“  
Until someone tries it (lawn bowling), he probably looks at it as boring. But when you're out there trying to place the bowl where you want it, that takes a lot of skill. It's very challenging.”

**Tom Stirrat**  
Competitive lawn bowler

build his own greens in Pennsylvania. "In the world tournament, it will be like a chess game."

Although most Americans probably never would consider lawn bowling a sport, it's a highly competitive event in many parts of the world. That's a big reason why the U.S. teams are usually at a disadvantage in major international meets.

In the South African tournament in Johannesburg, for example, the stadium will be filled with about 10,000 people, and millions more will watch on television.

"There aren't many public greens in this country, so the average person has no access," Stirrat said. "And until someone tries it, he probably looks at it as boring. But when you're out there trying to place the bowl where you want it, that takes a lot of skill. It's very challenging."

Stewart has been lawn bowling since 1974, when she took up the sport in Cleveland. She moved to Ohio from Scotland in 1968.

Even after a quarter-century of play, she's not satisfied.

"I'm still learning," said Stewart, who has played all over the world and was part of a winning pairs team in 1977. "You have to roll a lot of games, so you do have to be physically fit."

"Age isn't so much of a factor. It's more mental."

In Sun City, lawn bowling has become an integral part of the recreation culture. About 400 residents are involved in league play.

© THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

# Lawn bowling 'addiction' grows

By Jim McCurdy  
Special for The Republic

When Jerry Cobb moved to Sun City from Minnesota a year ago, he had no idea there was such a thing as bowling on grass.

Who ever heard of such a preposterous idea?

It may seem strange, but the 400 or so Sun City residents who have embraced the game certainly don't think they're nuts. In fact, they think people who haven't tried it are crazy.

"Before I came to Sun City, I'd never seen the game," Cobb said. "I totally fell in love with it. If you've never played the sport, you're really missing out. If you play it for a week, you're hooked. It's almost addicting."

Lawn bowling originated in Egypt more than 2,000 years ago. However, its roots are traced mainly to the British, where it was developed. It's a sport of distinction, where it is better to be proper than self-promoting and where participants are referred to as "ladies" and "gentlemen" and dress all in white. Respectable behavior with common courtesy and good sportsmanship are required.

The object is to roll weighted bowls as close as possible to white balls, called jacks, without going out of bounds.

Sixteen ends constitute a game, with each trip down the rink serving as one end. In essence, there are eight trips back and forth to the white jacks.

An executive bowling program was designed to shorten the game to 10 to 12 ends for the older participants.

Participants will perform Thursday when Sun City's Fairway Recreation Center hosts the Can-Am Tournament, featuring more than 140 bowlers from Sun City. Fairway Greens and Mountain View Greens, located within a few blocks of one another on Peoria and 107th avenues, are two of the nicer rinks around.

That's why so many Canadians, who take the game seriously in their country, migrate to Sun City each winter. For the record, the Canadians have owned the Americans in this tournament, which is more than 10 years old. After winning last year, the Canadians believe the title is theirs to lose again.

"Yeah, I think so," said the Canadian team's captain, Pat Harrison said. "I'll whip that team into shape."

When Can-Am Tournament co-chairman Bob Coulson moved to Sun City two years ago after living in Chandler since the 1950s, he was looking for property when he saw people in all-white clothes rolling oblong objects along the plentiful green grass.

"That will be the day I wear those," Coulson said to himself after being intrigued enough by the game to try it out. "No, I don't think I want to be an ice cream salesperson. But I've got a closet full, and I wear it every day. It's an old tradition, and I

hope it's a tradition that stays."

Harrison, of White Rock, British Columbia, notes there is some leniency nowadays that allows colors other than white if a team wears it collectively.

Even so, Sun City is quickly making the game part of its tradition. The retirees enjoy the camaraderie and challenge the game offers.

"It's not like rolling marbles," Cobb said. "It's really a calculating game."

Those who have played the Sun City courses know that the greens in the area are some of the nicest you'll find.

"It's mainly the lawn bowling that I came for," said Harrison, who's been in Sun City for five years.

Sometimes the Canadians actually have to borrow a few Americans to give them a full squad, but it's rumored that the Americans don't mind defecting to the northern country team.

"You said it, not me," Harrison said.

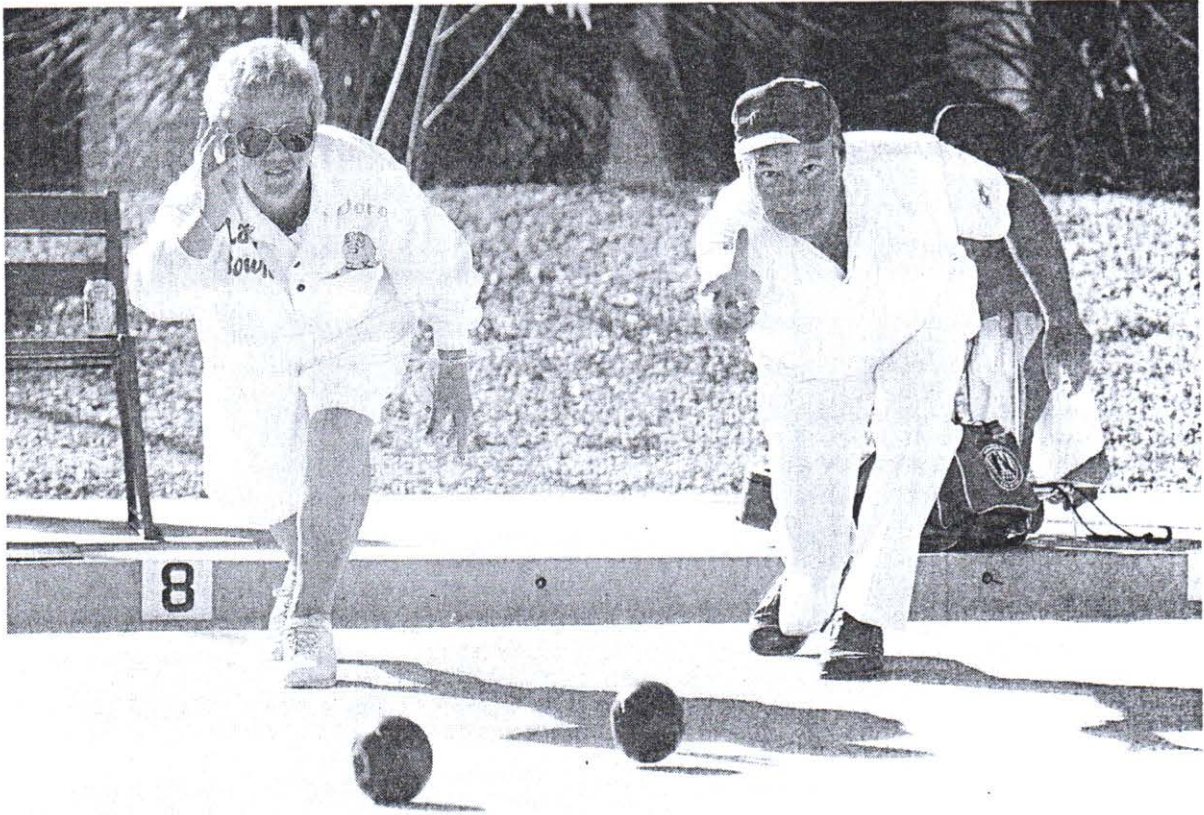
Sometimes onlookers stare at the people in all-white suits rolling weird objects along the grass.

"Quite a few come up and ask a lot of questions," Harrison said.

More than anything, it's the sportsmanship the game creates that many players welcome most.

"Courtesy really makes for a much more pleasant atmosphere," Harrison said. "The etiquette and courtesy just makes anything more pleasant."

Over



Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

Dressed in traditional white, Dora Stewart and Tom Stirrat of Sun City let loose of the bowls during a recent practice. Lawn bowling requires skill as well as manners — good sportsmanship is part of the game.

# On the lawn

The Bell Lawn Bowl Club of Sun City hits the greens three days a week at Bell Recreation Center. Frank Keener, said that the "bowl" is not round like a ball, therefore it rolls differently. He and most of the members wear white based on tradition.

For information, call Earl Buchanan at 876-2090.



LISA GOETTSCH/DAILY NEWS-SUN



LISA GOETTSCH/DAILY NEWS-SUN

PAGE B6 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — DECEMBER 22-28, 1999

# Local lawn bowlers to represent USA

## Locals travel to Australia and Johannesburg, South Africa

By **MIKE RUSSO**  
Independent Newspapers

Sun Citians Dora Steward and Tom Stirrat have been honored as selectees for Team USA in the 2000 World Bowls Championship which will be contested in April.

The 24-team men's lawn bowling championship will be contested in Johannesburg, South Africa, while 34 women's team will compete in Australia.

Although lawn bowling is not well known in many parts of the country, the Sun Cities are a hotbed.

Believed to have been originated in Egypt about 2000 years ago, the game was reportedly introduced to North America by British explorer Sir Francis Drake.

The game remains very popular today in Great Britain and Canada, as well as pockets of the United States, such as the Sun Cities. The Sun City Lawn Bowling Association has more than 400 members.

The object of the game is to get as many of your team's balls nearer to the small, white target ball,

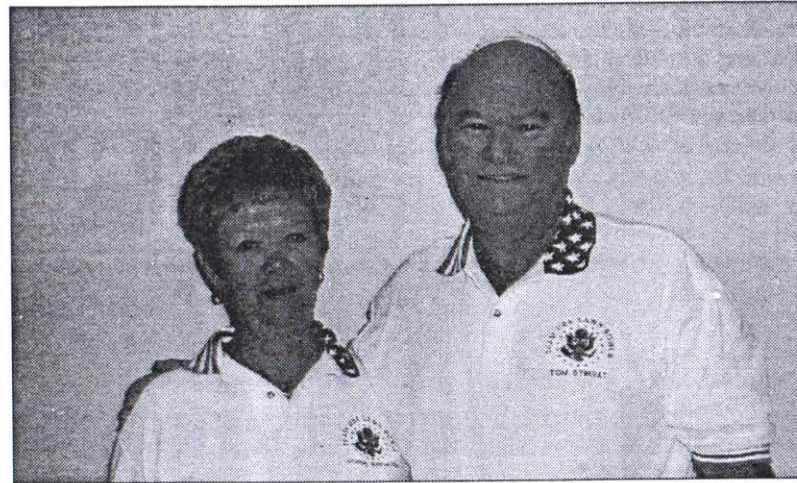


Photo by MIKE RUSSO/Independent Newspapers

Dora Steward, left, and Tom Stirrat, right, both lawn bowlers of Sun City, have been selected to compete on Team USA in the 2000 World Bowls Championship this April. Ms. Steward will be heading to Australia to compete with the women's team while Mr. Stirrat will leave for Johannesburg, South Africa to compete with the men. Both are confident they will return as world champions.

called a "Jack," than your opponents.

Regulation games consist of 16 ends, or turns up and down the grass court.

Stirrat, who began lawn bowling as a tyke, is the reigning U.S. singles champion. A third generation bowler, he has competed as a

member of Team USA for the past six or seven years. He began competitive lawn bowling during the 1980s.

Steward started bowling in 1974 while living in Ohio. She was member of the initial US ladies team champions in 1977.

Both Sun Citians represented

their country in the Asian Pacific Championship in Malaysia and in the North American Challenge, a showdown featuring the best lawn bowlers in Canada and the United States, last September. The North American Challenge was held in Victoria, British Columbia.

The US team defeated its Canadian counterparts to capture the cup and acquitted itself well enough in the Asian Pacific Championship to secure a World Bowls berth.

The Sun City duo are looking forward to meeting the world's top lawn bowlers in their respective tourneys.

Mr. Stirrat will depart for South Africa in late March to prepare for competition that runs April 1-16.

The winners have to survive a demanding schedule, he noted. "We may have to bowl as many as three games a day, every day," Mr. Stirrat said.

Ms. Steward will also leave for Australia in late March for her date with destiny.

Both are confident that the American teams can come back as world champions.



Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Dec. 18, and Sunday, Dec. 19, 1999

# Going for gold

## Sun City resident on U.S. lawn bowling squad

MARC BUCKHOUT  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

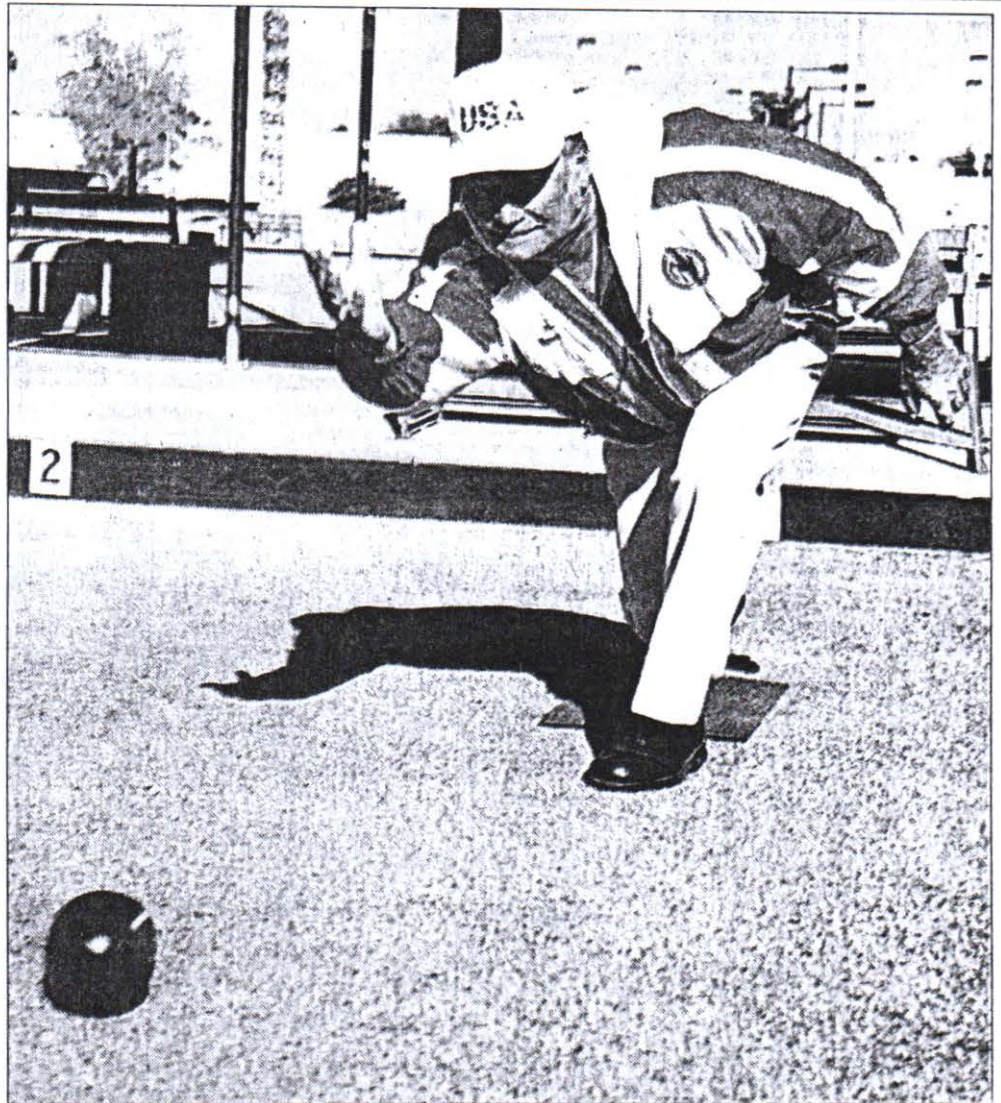
When the U.S. lawn bowling team heads to South Africa for the World Bowls in April, Sun City's very own Tom Stirrat will represent Arizona and the United States in the 24 team competition.

The five-man team, which will look to improve on a 20th place finish four years ago, is led by team manager Gil Stephan, also a local resident.

"The level of competition is extremely high. The foreign players have bowled all their lives," Stephan said. "The event is the equivalent of the Olympics. There will be stadiums packed with 5,000 people watching and it is a televised event over there."

Stirrat, who earlier this year won the U.S. National Championship in singles competition in California, grew up with the game and has been competing in tournaments since 1985.

"Basically it's a game of chess from 120 feet away," he said. "I love the



LISA GOETTSCHÉ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tom Stirrat will represent the United States in April at the World Bowls in Africa, a 24-team lawn bowling tournament.

challenge of trying to get better. It isn't a game of physical strength, it takes skill. It's also a mental challenge. You're trying to out think the person you're bowling against."

The U.S. team, including Stirrat, qualified for the World Bowls by finishing seventh in Malaysia in September.

The game, which takes great touch

and strategy, has been part of the Stirrat family for four generations.

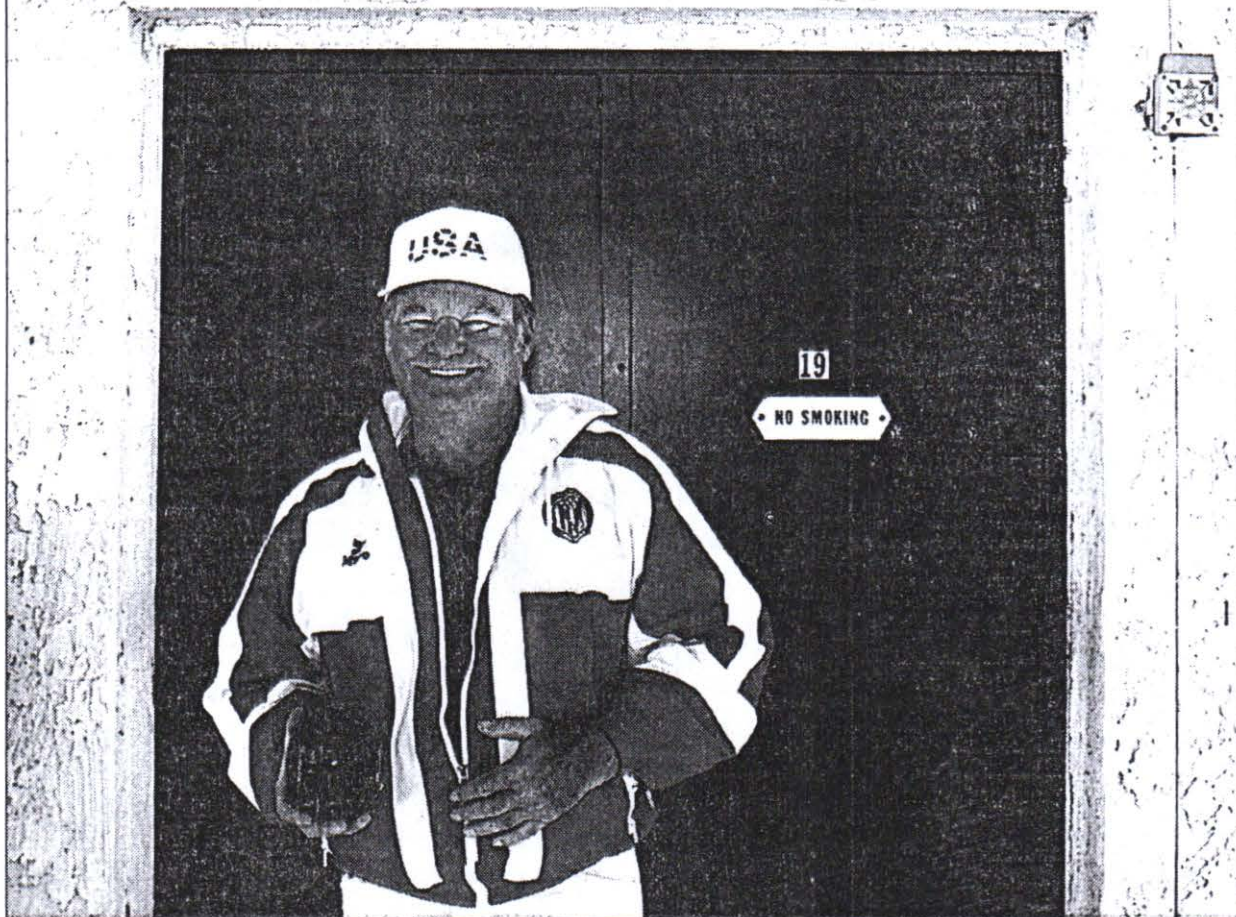
"He's an excellent player," Stephan said of Stirrat. "He works very hard on his game and is a very smart player."

Stirrat explained that while it was

**See SC man, C3**

*over*

# BELL LAWN BOWLS CLUB



LISA GOETTSCHE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City resident Tom Stirrat will be one of five U.S. players competing at the World Bowls tournament in Africa. The April event is equivalent to the Olympics for lawn bowling.

## SC man is lawn bowling national champion

### From C1

great to win the U.S. Championship, and that he has enjoyed the international competition, one of his most memorable moments was competing in the U.S. Nationals in 1990 when he bowled with both his dad and his son.

"There were three generations of Stirrat's competing together," he remembered. "It really doesn't get any better than that."

Stirrat works on his game seven days a week in Sun City.

While he loves competing, he explained that much of the enjoyment is the interaction with other competitors, stating that he has developed friendships all over the world.

Stirrat plans on participating in two local tournaments held in January while preparing for the trip to South Africa.

"It's going to be tough. In a lot of those countries bowling is all they do. England and Australia will be favored. We're going to do well though. We want to win the gold. That's every team's goal,

but if we can place high we'll be happy," Stirrat explained.

Stephan said that while there is some added pressure competing with all the spectators in foreign competitions, the real pressure comes from elsewhere.

"The pressure comes from within to do your best," the U.S. manager said. "This is top notch competition. Any time you participate in a competition you want to win no matter what it is. It will take a little luck and some good execution, but I think we'll do well."

Daily News-Sun Tuesday, March 9, 1999

## Roll models

### Sun City women prepare for lawn bowls tourney in South Africa

By JEFF OWENS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charlotte O'Keefe and Evelyn Keener aren't just champions in their sport. They're Sun City's premier champions of their sport — lawn bowling.

#### Lawn bowling

Keener and O'Keefe are headed for Capetown, South Africa, later this month to bowl over the crowds at the 1999 Atlantic Rim Games.

O'Keefe is the manager of the five-member U.S. team, which includes Keener. Both have earned scores of awards in their 10 years of international competition — the travels of their game have taken them to Wales, South Africa and Malaysia.

Both women want to change the image of their beloved sport, a staple

of Sun Cities sporting life that remains little known in the rest of the Valley.

"People think it's an old person's game," O'Keefe said. "It's not."

She said she gets chided at her country club by people who equate the sport with a foot in the grave.

"They say, 'Oh, you're in that old ladies crowd.'"

Keener bristles at the thought, too. "It's a misperception," she added, the look on her face saying more than her words.

Both would like to see the incoming generation of younger Sun Citians join the game — it's the late 40s and early 50s bowlers they'd like to get into the Sun City Lawn Bowls Club.

Both women said lawn bowling's international reputation is somewhat

akin to that of big-time NFL action here in the United States.

Law a bowling in South Africa? "It'd be like a football game here," O'Keefe said with a laugh.

O'Keefe and Keener love the game, but are serious about competition.

"The people we'll be bowling against have been doing it since they were in grade school," O'Keefe said. "We didn't start until we were retired."

As in the Olympics, bowlers at the Atlantic Rim Games will vie for gold, silver and bronze medals. The games, from March 21 to March 28, include teams from the United States, Canada, Argentina, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Israel, Spain, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Netherlands.



Lisa Goetsche/Daily News-Sun

Evelyn Keener, left, and Charlotte O'Keefe will head to South Africa later this month.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

8-15-97

# Roll models

## Sun Cities lawn bowlers score victory in Canada

By DAVID R. BECK  
Staff writer

When Tom Stirrat competes in a lawn bowling tournament, chances are he has a sizable advantage in experience over most competitors.

### Lawn bowling

Stirrat, a seven-year Sun City resident, is a third generation lawn bowler and even had his own custom-built bowling green at his Pennsylvania home.

Three weeks ago, Stirrat and Gordon Shieck of Sun City West went undefeated in doubles play at the Can-Am West Classic in Edmonton, Alberta.

Stirrat lost just one match in singles action to tie three Canadians for individual honors, though medals were awarded only to the top overall team.

It was the first time Stirrat, an Athens, Pa., native and Shieck, who hails from Grand Blanc, Mich., had bowled together. Both men said they quickly developed a feel for each other's game.

"He's a great draw bowler," Stirrat said of Shieck. "He can place the ball really well and he's ac-

curate. He's very conscientious and meticulous."

Shieck, who didn't take up lawn bowling until moving to the Valley three years ago, was more succinct in assessing Stirrat's game.

"He's a great strategist," Shieck said. "We think alike."

Stirrat, 61 and a retired building contractor, learned the game from his parents, who emigrated from Scotland to Athens, near the Pennsylvania-New York border.

He calls a 1989 tournament in Niagara Falls, N.Y. his most memorable because three Tom Stirrats competed together, including his father and son.

"I'm so serious that back in Pennsylvania, I had no place to practice bowling and I built my own bowling green in my back yard," said Stirrat, who is ambidextrous. "I'd bowl with my left hand against my right hand just to practice."

Some 40 years ago, Stirrat, a former 200 bowler, played rugby professionally in Bermuda for 1½ years. Not wanting to show up any of his rivals, Stirrat won't say how

long he's been competing in lawn bowling.

Shieck, 62, will quickly tell you he is a relative newcomer to the game, and how he rapidly became enamored by lawn bowling.

"I found that it was a very competitive sport to get into and very challenging," said Shieck, a retired tool and die maker. "When I came out here I thought I'd be playing more golf, but now it's my secondary sport."

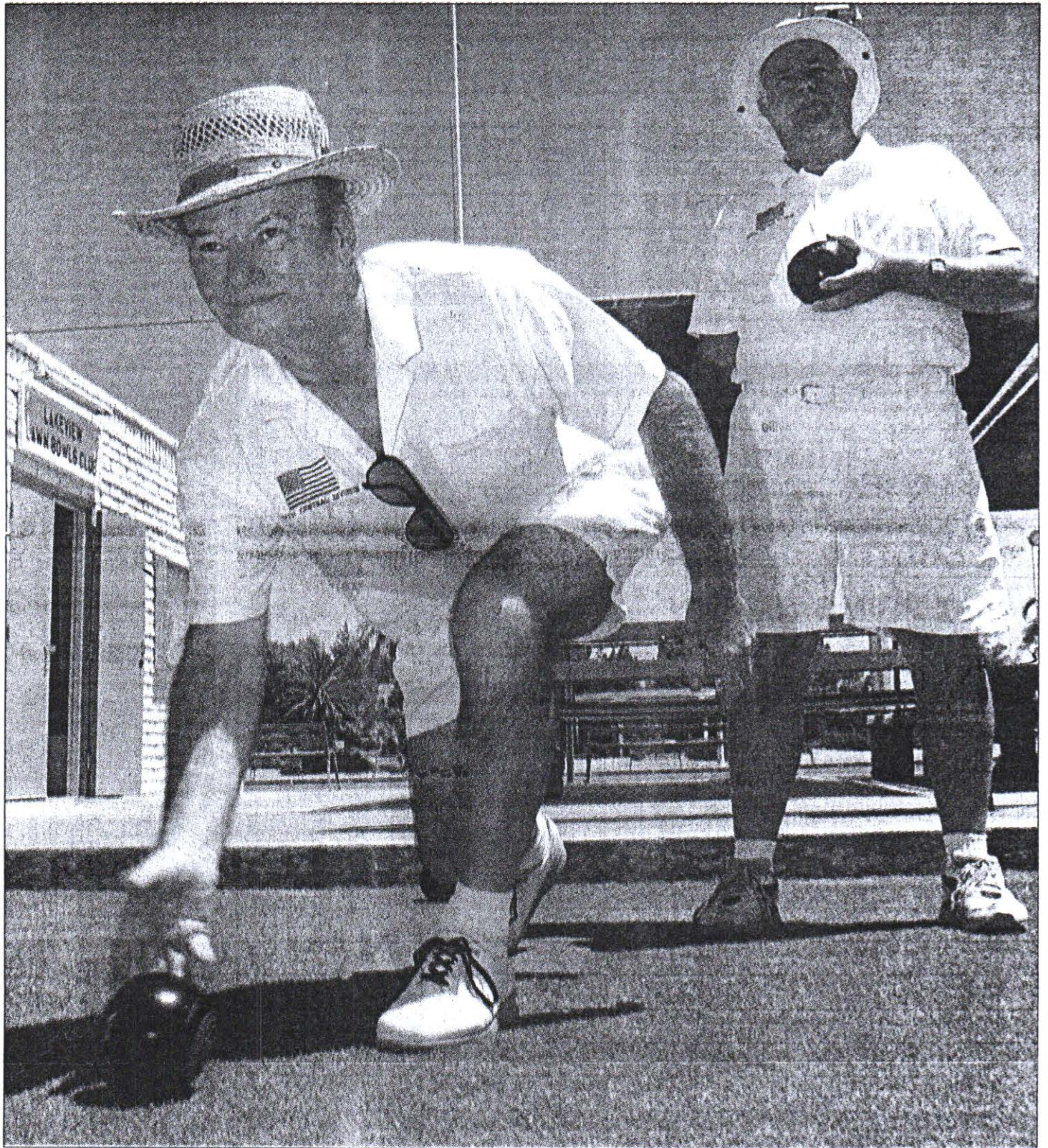
Both Shieck and Stirrat said a lawn bowling tandem is only as good its cohesiveness.

"To bowl as a team, you have to know the strengths and weaknesses of your team members and opponents," Stirrat said. "You have to kind of read each other's mind without saying much."

"Lawn bowling is a game of accuracy, like chess. So I'll position the pawn (ball) in strategic spots."

Stirrat is preparing for the U.S. Lawn Bowling Championships, set for Sept. 13 in Buck Hill Falls, Pa., and the duo will compete together at the U.S. Open in October at Anaheim, Calif.

OVER



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Tom Stirrat, left, of Sun City and Gordon Shieck of Sun City West went undefeated in doubles play at the Can-Am West Classic in Edmonton, Alberta.

# Sun City lawn party

## Event attracts players from around globe

By ANN T. DALEY  
Assistant Sports Editor

SUN CITY — After his first visit to Sun City, Chip Standen learned Clive Forrester had been a talented lawn bowler.

It wasn't until Standen returned home to Gillingham, England, that he discovered the full extent of the former Sun Citian's accomplishments — highlighted by a 1972 World Bowls pairs championship.

### Lawn bowls

"It was purely by accident that I found out," said Standen, who arrived here Thursday to play in the sixth annual Clive and Lola Forrester Mixed Rinks lawn bowls tournament.

"I was boasting about this tournament and one man said he remembered Clive.

"People remember him because he represented the United States in the '72 World Bowls and won the pairs," Standen said of Forrester, who died in 1992. "They remember him because of the way he won it. His partner became ill and a substitute stepped in and they won."

Today's opening round at Lakeview and Bell recreation centers marks the fifth time Standen has traveled overseas to play in the Forrester Mixed Rinks.

The Englishman first learned of the event when he met Sun City resident and tournament director Gil Stephan at a lawn bowls competition in Las Vegas in 1991.

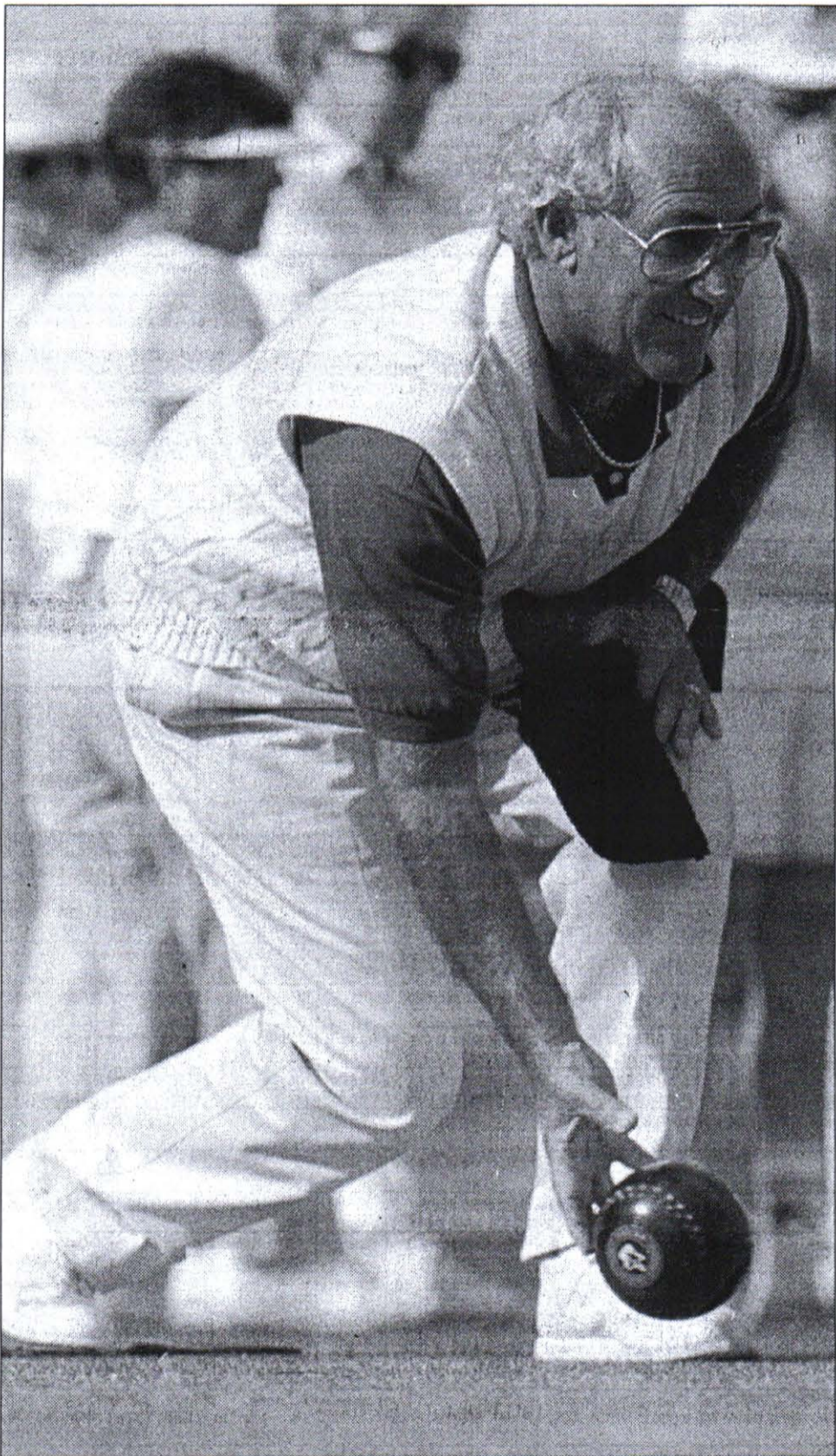
After receiving an invitation, Standen traveled to Sun City to play in the tournament and has been a faithful competitor ever since.

"I try to offer as much publicity as I can over there," said the British Rail Telecom design engineer, who is being paired with Californians Laura Lewis, Regina Banares and Andre Banares.

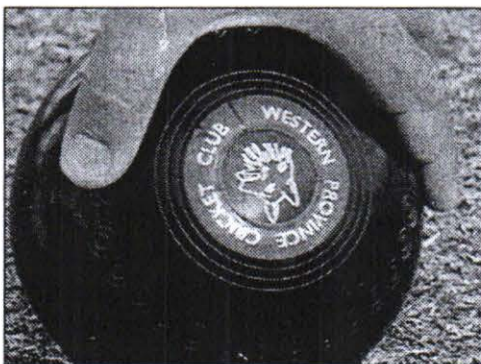
"The ones who can play and have the money to travel don't spend their money on trips like this. The other ones who really want to play don't have the money to spend.

"I thoroughly enjoy it," he said. "The people here are so friendly. They make sure a fuss over the English. The weather here is so warm and sunny. It breaks up what I call the winter sickness syndrome. It's a rejuvenation."

Stephan also is credited with  
See **Tourney attracts, C16**



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun



Lionel Thom of South Africa works on his lawn bowls game at Lakeview Recreation Center. At left is the ball he uses and the club he represents.

## Tourney attracts international field

— From C1

luring South African Lionel Thom to play for the first time this year.

"I met Gil in Florida and where he ran the (American Lawn Bowls Championship) very well," Thom said. "I knew this one would be run just as well."

A 20-year veteran of the sport, Thom does much of his

bowling within a 65-mile radius of his hometown of Capetown, where 68 lawn bowls clubs boast about 12,000 bowlers. He also travels extensively with his wife, Marge. The couple spent six days driving from Florida to play in the Forrester Rinks.

At practice on Friday, Thom said competitors here "would not disgrace themselves as bowlers in South Africa."

"For a country with not so many lawn bowlers, there are some very, very good bowlers here," said Thom, who will play with former South African Robin Goldman — now a Baltimore resident — Myra Wood of Washington and Heather Stewart of Southern California.

"If Gil invites me again, I'll drive back. I love lawn bowls and I like meeting people."



Leah Close, left, and Nancy Hull-Ober won the Lawn Bowling Association National Championships pairs competition at the 1993 American Women's played at Walnut Creek, Calif. Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

# National champs

## Sun Citians capture lawn bowling title

By ANN T. DALEY  
Daily News-Sun staff

### Lawn bowling

SUN CITY — They've been teammates for little more than a year, but already Nancy Hull-Ober and Leah Close have developed a winning chemistry.

It's no surprise, listening to the Sun City pair recall tournament experiences with laughs and teasing comments.

"We get along because neither one of us thinks we're the queen," said Hull-Ober, an eight-year veteran of the sport. "A lot of players won't talk to each other. It makes it more difficult to be a team."

"Leah's fun. It's important we can talk to each other. We can give advice without the other getting upset."

Close agreed.

"Nancy doesn't get mad at me when I play badly," said Close, who

began playing lawn bowls in 1982 while living in a mobile home park in Tempe.

This year, there has been little need for criticism.

The Sun City pair combined to bring home the gold in the 1993 American Women's Lawn Bowling Association National Championships played at Walnut Creek, Calif.

This year's event marked the second time the partners had competed in nationals, including last year's third-place finish.

At nationals this year, the pair posted a 4-0-2 record, highlighted by a 23-9 victory over an archrival team from California.

"Beating them was the highlight of the whole thing," said Close, 63. "We wanted to win that game if

nothing else. We just happened to win it all."

"We were the oldies," said 70-year-old Hull-Ober with a laugh. "There were people of all ages in this tournament."

In March, the pair earned the right to represent the AWLBA's South Central Division by winning the women's Play Downs qualifying tournament.

Hull-Ober takes credit for having initiated the partnership with Close.

"I just called her one day and asked her if she wanted to play with me," said Hull-Ober, who began lawn bowling while living in Seattle in 1985. "I knew she was a good player. Boy, can I pick them."

The title is Hull-Ober's second at nationals. In 1990, she won the women's singles event.



# Lawn bowlers roll into Sun City

## Lakeview hosts U.S. Championships

By ANN T. DALEY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — After 32 years, Neil McInnes has officially rolled to the top among United States lawn bowlers.

McInnes, 63, was named Bowler of the Decade for the 1980s by the American Lawn Bowls Association in October.

"It was a surprise," said McInnes, of Glendale, Calif.

"It symbolizes having paid your dues."

The Australian is one of 21 ALBA divisional champions competing in the 1991 U. S. Championships at the Lakeview Lawn Bowls Club this week.

Of the 21 bowlers in the round-robin tournament, two were among the five finalists for the award, almost half have competed internationally and seven have won the U.S. Championships.

"It's sort of like a homecoming for these bowlers," said Bill Weaver, a Sun City lawn bowler. "Most of them know each other so well from having bowled together for years. It's a chance to visit as well as compete."

Weaver and South Central Division doubles partner Gil Stephan are competing against McInnes and Southwest Division partner, Mert Issacman, a nine-year bowler from South Africa.

"Neil has won his country's championship in each of the last three decades," Stephan said. "He's quite a competitor."

Among McInnes' accomplishments that earned his selection are nine U.S. Championship titles, three National Open titles, and two titles at the Israel Macabee Games.

He has played with former Bowler of the Decades Richard Folkins (1960s) and Harold Esh (1970s).

"I have a lot of rivals," McInnes said.

### Lawn bowls

"People always want to beat you when you're on top."

Among his long-time competitors are Milwaukee truck driver Ken Degenhardt and former Hong Kong banker Saco Delgado.

Degenhardt, a 35-year veteran bowler, finished as second runner-up in the Bowler of the Decade selection. In 1982, he won the doubles title at the U.S. Championships with partner Chester Schuller.

Delgado, the 1991 Pacific Inter-Mountain singles champion, formerly represented Hong Kong in several international tournaments. He won a gold medal in the pairs event at the 1970 British Empire Games, a bronze medal in the rinks (fours) and a gold medal in pairs at the 1972 World Bowls.

Traveling internationally has its advantages, although the lengthy tournaments can take a toll on players, he said.

"Each game lasts four hours, and you play three games a day," said Delgado, 60. "You're out there playing for 12 hours a day, sometimes for two weeks straight. The toil, sun and environment wear the players out."

While en route to a competition in the 1970s, Delgado and a partner were detained for three days at an airport in Athens, Greece.

"It was during terrorist action. They searched our bags. They thought our bowls were bombs," he said.

Recently, McInnes traveled to Hong Kong to compete in the Pacific Games with partners Degenhardt, Joe Shepard and Frank Souza.

"We didn't win any medals, but we had a keen time," McInnes said.

# Lawn bowlers get new division

## Group breaks from Southwest ALBA Division

By CONNIE STEELE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — The drive to create a new division of the American Lawn Bowling Association (ALBA) has succeeded, Hugh Hammerslag of Sun City West, said Tuesday.

At their recent annual meeting, members of the ALBA board of directors approved the formation of the seventh ALBA division in the United States.

Encompassing Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma, the new division probably will be known as the South Central ALBA Division, Hammerslag said.

"This is strictly for the men now," Niels Kragh of Sun City said. Women lawn bowlers are affiliated with the American Women Lawn Bowls Association (AWLBA).

Hammerslag and Kragh have been a major force behind the move to break off from the Southwest Division, which has been dominated by clubs in Southern California.

"We've been working on this thing for about six years,"

Hammerslag said.

ALBA directors met Oct. 12 and Oct. 13 in Santa Ana, Calif. At that meeting, the motion to create the new division, which had previously met periodic opposition, was approved and the ALBA Constitution amended to reflect the change, Hammerslag said.

The new division already has three member clubs: the Sun City Lawn Bowls Club of Arizona, the Sun City West Lawn Bowls Club and the Leisure World Lawn Bowls Club in Mesa.

Hammerslag said the first organizational meeting of the new division will be held right

after the Arizona open which will be held in Sun City, Sun City West and Mesa Nov. 10 through Nov. 19.

Each of the three member clubs will send three representatives to the meeting. If other clubs decide to join the new division, they also will send three representatives.

Hammerslag estimates that the initial meeting could convene with as many as 18 representatives.

The group will review bylaws, elect officers and be prepared to conduct business by January 1990, he said.

A move to change ALBA's 100 percent ruling for club

membership failed to pass, Kragh said. The 100 percent ruling keeps a club out of ALBA if even one member refuses to pay dues and join ALBA.

"They also voted on trying to kill that, but they didn't succeed in that," Kragh said.

"If the club decides to go with the association, all the men within that club will have to join the association to qualify the club," he said.

"It's kind of tough to get clubs in some of these areas to get all of the men to agree to join," he said.

This means that not all clubs in the new division will become ALBA members.

# Sun Cities to host 2 national lawn bowling tournaments

## Event honors Clive Forrester

By CONNIE STEELE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The Sun Cities will host two national American Lawn Bowls Association (ALBA) tournaments in 1990, including one named in honor of longtime lawn bowler Clive Forrester of Sun City.

The two events will be the Clive Forrester Two Plus Two Rinks Tournament in Sun City and the Del Webb Doubles Tournament in Sun City West.

The Forrester tournament is

scheduled for Jan. 27 through Jan. 29, 1990, and will be played by teams made up of two men and two women.

No date has been set for the Del Webb Doubles event, said Hugh Hammerslag of Sun City West, an executive board member of the ALBA, but he speculated that it would be in early 1990. Hammerslag serves on the executive board of the ALBA Southwest Division, which includes Arizona.

Lawn bowlers chose to honor Forrester, in part, said Hammerslag, because "he has by far the greatest record in lawn bowling of anyone in this area. He's an absolutely quality

bowler."

Forrester has been winning national championships since 1959. In 1983, he won the National Open Singles.

Board members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, at their Aug. 24 board meeting, unanimously approved holding the Forrester tournament. Ray Danford, board chairman, said, "All board members think it is wonderful."

Danford said the recreation board hopes the tournament will promote Sun City as a good place to retire.

Organizers also hope many national and international

bowlers will visit Sun City for the tournament.

"The timing was set for that," Hammerslag said.

Hammerslag said the Las Vegas Hacienda tournament precedes the Forrester tournament by a week. Because of the purse associated with the Hacienda tournament, where individual prizes range from \$600 to \$900, the event draws bowlers from Canada and England as well as many states, Hammerslag said.

"We're hoping some of those people will find it convenient and fun to come to the Clive Forrester (Tournament)," Hammerslag said.



# Sun City Newsletter and Activities Calendar



PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.



DEL E. WEBB DEVELOPMENT CO.



Vol. 14-No. 10



October 1, 1976

## SUN CITY WELCOMES U.S. LAWN BOWLS CHAMPIONS

Sun City's five lawn bowling clubs will host the 1976 American Lawn Bowls Association's United States Championships on the Lakeview Recreation Center greens October 4-6.

Eighteen divisional winners from throughout the United States will compete in this tournament. Participants include: Edwin J. Roache, Bill Scott and George E. Dunn, representing the Eastern Division; Robert Livingston, William Miller and William Kaesle from the Southeast; Bert George McWilliams, Jacklan and Doug MacArthur from the Central States; Iral Neely Johnson, William Gordon Craig and Robert Boehm will be here from the Northwest Division; Joe DaLuz, Francisco Souza and Charles Canistraci from the Pacific Inner-Mountain Division and Thomas Stirrat, Gerald LaPask and Richard Volkins will represent the Southwest Division. The

tournament director is Fred Bacon from Walnut Creek, California.

Starting times for the U.S. Championships is 9 AM each day. Several thousand spectators are expected to line the greens to watch this exciting, admission-free tournament.

In addition to the U.S. singles and pairs tournament, the Sun City Lawn Bowls Clubs will present three local events: Women's Draw Triples on October 5, Men's Pairs on October 7 and 8, and a Mixed Pairs Tourney on October 9 and 10.

Sun City, the Lawn Bowls Capitol of the World, welcomes the eighteen district winners and wishes them success in the upcoming United States Championships!



### CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

1976 United States Lawn Bowls Committee chairpersons include: (Row 1, left) Jim Hale, Annabelle Dickinson, Jo Eckel, Allie Lamansky, Velma Luthy, Virginia Bower and Bill Hadden; (Row 2, left) Sandy Cochran, Brian Blasdale, Red Elwinger, George Vermilye, Gerry Hough and Carl Luthy; (Row 3, left) Frank Shamel, David Anderson, Pike Porter, Malcolm Lodge and Herb Lamansky.

# They're Bowling The Jack In Sun City

By SAM LOWE

Dan Mahan was explaining the shot facing young Doug McArthur:

"His chance was to split the bowls with an overshot and follow on the jack with his own bowl, or strike with a

drive shot to take both opponent bowls out."

YOU'LL BE glad to know that McArthur was successful and won not only the point, but the game.

The 24-year-old Chicagoan is the youngest participant in the American

Lawn Bowls Association's United States Championship at Sun City this week.

Lawn bowling (or more properly, lawn bowls) is not taking the nation by storm, much to the dismay of its adherents.

ALTHOUGH ONE of the oldest of all participation sports, it has only about 6,000 followers in the United States.

It is not like the bowling most Americans know. It is somewhat a combination of curling and shuffleboard.

There are no pins in lawn bowls. The ball is not round, it is weighted on one side, and is not called a ball but a bowl. A ball is used, but it is the strikee, not the strikor, and is not called a ball but a jack.

This is sort of how it works (using singles because it's less complicated to explain):

THE OPPONENTS flip a coin to decide who's first. The winner rolls the jack to the far end of the court, at least 75 feet from the bowlers, who then roll their lopsided bowls toward the jack. When both sides have used up their eight bowls, the points are counted for that "end" (sort of like a frame in shuffleboard). The bowl closest to the jack scores. If the scorer has other bowls closer to the jack than any of his foe's, they also count one point.

The first bowler to reach 21 in singles wins. In pairs and triples, the team ahead at the end of 21 ends wins.

Historians think lawn bowls originated right after running, jumping, throwing and wrestling.

THE ENGLISH became fanatics, getting so engrossed that King Henry VIII

banned lawn bowls in 1511, saying "the game of bowles is an evil because, the alleys are operated in conjunction with saloons, or dissolute places, and bowling has ceased to be a sport and rather a form of vicious gambling."

The ban was not lifted until 1845, but bowling fans being bowling fans, they circumvented the edict by developing the forerunners of tenpins, which preceded today's alley bowling.

The Sun City tournament is drawing more than 1,000 fans per session, none of them bashful about expounding the merits of the endeavor.

BUT THEY express concern that only about five per cent of those 6,000 lawn bowlers in the nation are under 30. They point to McArthur with pride, then admonish the media for showing interest in lawn bowling only on weekdays when most participants are retirees.

"We're trying to defeat the label of 'a game for the elderly,'" said Harold L. Esch of Orlando, Fla., named Lawn Bowler of the Decade for the 1960s. "Nobody ever sees pictures of young people participating because they can bowl only on the weekends."

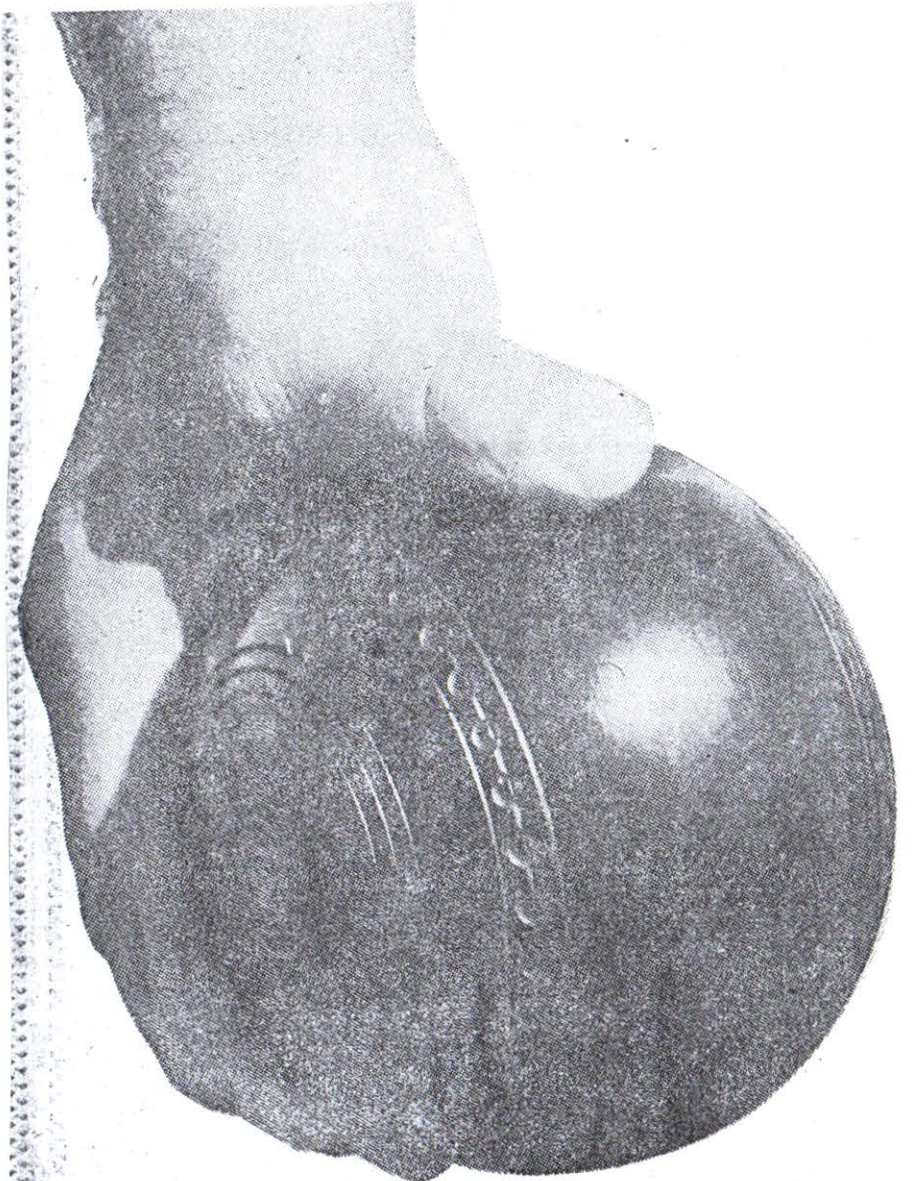
Lawn bowlers are convinced that exposure to the sport will turn young people into converts. "It bites you. I gave up golf to concentrate on lawn bowls," said Frank Souza of San Francisco, who at 36 is the second youngest player here.

The game is not to be scoffed at. It requires the concentration of a golfer and the gentle touch of a balloon-shaver.

But it can become a sport for all ages, and today's lawn bowlers hope it does.

Gazette Staff Photos

By GARY ULIK



The ball used in lawn bowls is not really a ball because it's not spherical. It requires a special grip.

# Lawn Bowling at Sun City

## Becoming Tradition

What is lawn bowling? That question could be asked throughout Arizona and would very likely go unanswered.

That is in every town with the exception of Del Webb's Sun City, where the sport is included in its residents' schedule of combined fun and leisure living.

The game was introduced to the state with the unique community's Grand Opening four years ago. Now, more than 200 bowlers roll on Sun City's two spacious greens three days a week. Little more than a dozen of these enthusiasts had pursued the activity before moving to Sun City.

This week, three of the comparative neophytes are representing their community and the state at the World Lawn Bowling Tournament in Los Angeles.

Although the "Gentleman's Sport," as it is known, dates back to the ancient Greeks, it actually became a popular pastime in England during the 12th Century.

In the United States, today, bowling greens are as common as tennis courts in the East and on the West Coast.

Sun Citians consider lawn bowling a leisurely sport, but a competitive one as well. Those who in past years enjoyed tenpin bowling, find the outdoor game at least as challenging.

Each Sun City green has several one-hundred foot lanes. A white porcelain "jack" about the size of a billiard ball is tossed as much as two thirds down the lane. Each player then tries to bowl as close to the "jack" as possible.

Because distance of the "jack" will be altered with each round, the game is never static and the bowlers have to be on their toes to judge the distance each time.

The rich turf of the green is smoother than a putting surface and is easily damaged by improper footwork. As one bowler put it, "Heels can do more damage in five minutes than a battalion of gophers would in a month."

As a consequence, beginners are given instruction on a practice green before they join team play.

The trick of the game is learning how to use the "bias" of the bowls. Each bowl has two slightly oval sides, one weighted a little heavier than the other. The bowl then can be thrown straight, or curved either right or left. A good bowler can throw a curve that will break as much as ten feet.

The key player is the anchor man, or "skip," who is usually the best bowler and team captain. If he can strike the "jack" and move it, he may prevent his opponents from scoring at all, and at the same time increase his team's score. There are usually 21 rounds, called "ends," to a game, with each bowler taking a turn per round.

Sir Francis Drake, one of England's great sea heroes, was engaged in a close game of bowls when word came that the huge Spanish Armada was sweeping down on English shores. Drake, unperturbed (so they say), refused to hurry, finished his game of bowls and then went out to win one of England's most famous sea victories.

Another avid bowler, whose name is unrecorded, is credited with having altered the original shape of the bowls, from round to nearly oval.

In the course of a hotly-contested game, this player

split his bowl in half. Rather than retire from the game, he drew his sword, drew a bead on a nearby sign post with a sphere on top, with one fell swoop decapitated the post. When he tried using his prize in the game, he discovered that the edge of his sword had flattened one of the sides causing the bowl to curve in unpredictable directions.

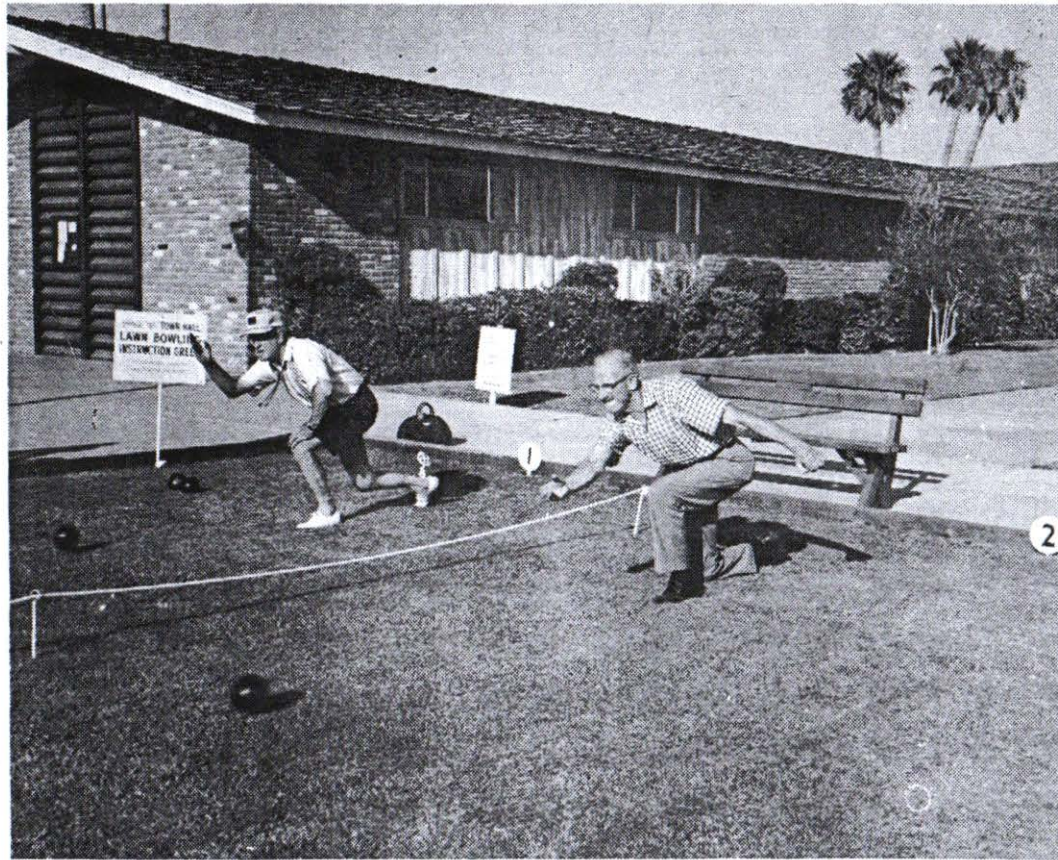
Today, of course, the "bias" is more scientifically prepared. The American Lawn Bowling Association spells out the dimensions at about five inches in diameter, and the weight at approximately three pounds. The bowls must be inspected and stamped by the International Bowling Board.

George Milne, who with Merle Cunningham and Al Bloomquist, makes up the Sun City triples team now engaged in play at Los Angeles, expressed hope the extension committee of the American Lawn Bowling Association can interest Phoenix in establishing city greens.

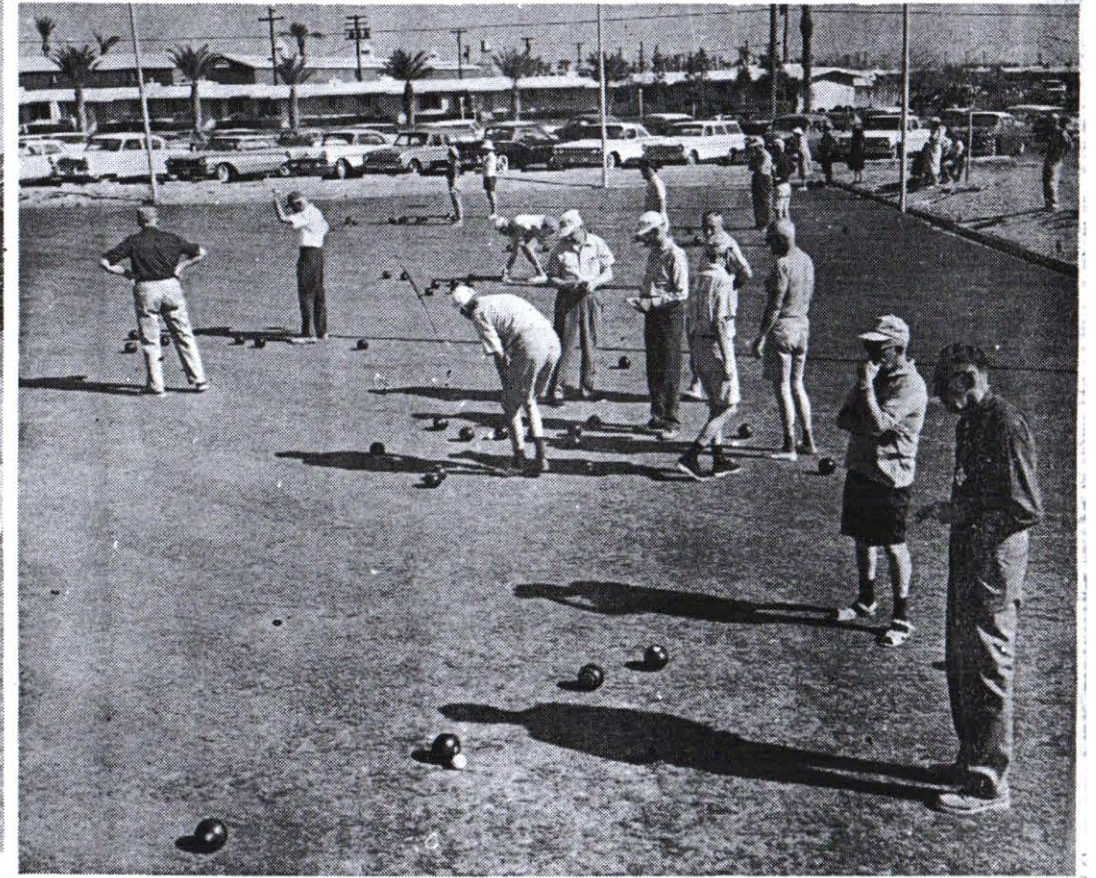
"It draws tourists," says Milne. "Our climate is ideal for year-round play. When we're in full swing during the winter season, clubs elsewhere are forced to postpone play."

Actually Sun City's bowlers would like some Valley competition. "After all," quips Milne, "we've been indisputable state champs four years now."

DAILY NEWS Picture Story by Jerry Svendsen



LESSON SESSION —C. D. Glenn (left), bowling instructor and Town Hall Lawn Bowling president, bowls simultaneously with beginner Leland Cornell during one of several lesson sessions.



ON TARGET—Bowlers at Community Center Green watch an opponent zero on a target in the foreground. Other players, in the background, are measuring and marking score.