

2021 is our
30th Anniversary!



Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club

JACK CHATTER

The Atlantics 2021

special issue

Rain, at times heavy, welcomed them.

Bowlers from four provinces arrived at the Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club, ready to participate in The Atlantics, looked at the sky and wondered, “*What kind of weekend are we in for?*” By the end of the weekend, the rain was a fleeting memory. By the end of the weekend, they had enjoyed a fabulous experience and a tremendous competition.



The Atlantics is an annual competition for lawn bowlers from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. In conjunction with Bowls New Brunswick Boulingrin, the FLBC chose to host the event for 2021. While play usually includes both triples

and pairs teams, this year’s competition was limited to triples only.

This year’s tournament took place on September 10, 11 and 12. Two mens teams and two womens teams from each province made up the full contingent of bowlers. However, as often happens, a few local players were needed to fill out the roster of out-of-town teams who were unable to field complete teams. Players from all New Brunswick clubs—Centennial in Moncton, Seaside in Saint John, and FLBC in Fredericton—were called into action.

Fredericton club members volunteered to fill out a wide variety of tasks to ensure the event would come off without a hitch. On the Wednesday afternoon before the start of the tournament, more



than a dozen club members met to discuss the needs and responsibilities involved in organizing and conducting such an affair. Under the direction of club president Pat Beggs, who also competed as a member of one of the New Brunswick teams, Patricia Albert, as event co-chair, and Susan Fortune, FLBC social committee chair, volunteers were guided through all necessary aspects of the event.

After registration on Friday morning, which included the requisite approval of bowls and footwear, co-chairs Beggs and Albert welcomed bowlers to Fredericton, and explained

event rules and other considerations.



Patricia Albert



*Yves Martin
Bowlers' Pledge*



Pat Beggs

The FLBC prides itself on the quality of its green. Directed by greensmaster Pat Beggs, assisted on a daily basis by member Lawrence Keegan, the green consistently offers bowlers the best playing surface possible. Professional maintenance service is contracted to local entrepreneur, Gary Gunter, who also regularly works with the region's golf courses. Gunter was instructed to accommodate the club's specific requirements for The Atlantics. Those instructions included a shorter-than-usual cut leading to a faster surface to provide the best quality game as possible. Just as he was scheduled to accommodate

the club's request the heavy rain made a shambles of his plans and the best intentions went unattended.



On the final days before the tournament began, new club member, Wayne Hossack, who had come to FLBC this year from Pointe Claire, Quebec where he served as groundskeeper for years, assisted in the preparations for competition.

With the flags of the provinces displayed along the gazebo to greet the bowlers, and teams wearing their provincial uniforms, the Fredericton club displayed a colourful scene indeed.



The point of it all however, was the bowling. With the rain just about over, matches then began on the FLBC's eight rinks.



Word had got out to the local community that something big was going on at the bowling club. A reporter from the local CBC station arrived to document the occasion, and interview the organizers. [Their report can be found at:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/atlantic-bowls-fredericton-1.6173178>]



This year the tournament weekend coincided with Fredericton's annual fall fair located across the street, which added to the stress on the parking lot. With the help of Fredericton's recreation and parks department, a temporary gate provided access only for bowling and tennis purposes.

Later the city went beyond the call of duty when the lights went out on Friday night. The draw that evening was about to come to a close when the club lost power. Luckily there was enough illumination from the dusk to finish the last end. The whole thing came about when a transformer located at the nearby tennis courts blew out, causing not only an outage to FLBC's power but a large billowing cloud of smoke. That in turn brought a fire truck and police cars to the parking lot. When the smoke had cleared and the commotion



had settled down, everyone went home for the night.

Saturday morning, seven thirty to be exact, a city crew had a temporary generator set up to provide electricity to the club so that there was no disruption to the event. A good deal of gratitude goes to the city for their solid attention to the needs of The Atlantics.



The Atlantics committee held a meeting while on site at the club. Since the committee chair, Andy Wepruk of Montreal, was unable to attend, the vice-chair, Etta Reid, who also competed in the tournament as part of the PEI team, led the proceedings.

Under the guidance of Susan Fortune, the team of volunteers ensured that everyone on hand was well snacked and fed. There were lots of homemade muffins and cookies to go with the tea and coffee, cold plate lunches and a Friday supper of pizza and chicken wings. When play was underway, and spectators were focussed on the action, the facilities were constantly kept clean to the rigid Covid requirements.



Besides all the fun and games on the green, lots more fun was in store at the tournament dinner. Bowlers and organizers, along with many interested patrons, arrived at the Radisson Hotel at 6:30 on Saturday night for a half hour of drinks and delight before

the hotel staff served dinner at 7.

Following the meal, Pat Beggs presented first time Atlantics bowlers with their pins as part of the annual celebrations, then led the festivities with his usual good-natured banter, focussing on the camaraderie involved in the competition.

A bit of a medical emergency resulted in one of the matches involving the NB-A Womens team winning by default. Their original opponent withdrew from that game only, yet in order for the NB team to play and get credit to be applied toward the Sid Currie trophy, an impromptu team of bowlers, who happened to be on hand, stepped in to provide the opposition.



While The Atlantics traditionally enjoys a light-hearted social atmosphere, it is still a serious tournament, and as such requires accredited umpires to be on hand, and called upon at a moment's notice. Three umpires were assigned to this event, and a fourth was

available to fill in during another's scheduled absence.

Besides the forty plus bowlers who competed, fans and spectators from far and wide, some from as far away as Quebec, came to the Fredericton green to support their favourites during the play.





After the last bowl was delivered, measured, counted and put away, the tabulators got to work and crunched the numbers. Competitors were aware from the start there would be no tie-breaker games, but rather the aggregate system would be used whereby the winner would be determined by shots for divided by shots against.



When all the mathematical deductions had been finalized, Pat Beggs strode onto the grass to announce the results.

On the womens side:

1st place – Quebec B - Carolyn McGarr, Muffin Hoodspith, Denise Stojda

2nd place – PEI B – Amy Spence, Brenda Carr, Liz Gauthie

3rd place – Quebec A – Donna LeBlanc, Mila Sachdeva, Norma Cassidy

And on the mens, it was:

1st place – Quebec B – Gilles DeSerres, Venance Basque, Maurice Beauchamp

2nd place – NS A - Braedan Campbell, Cameron LeFresne, Mike Stewart

3rd place – PEI A – Ivan Doucette, Charlie Reid, Scott Spence



Only one prize was left. The **Sid Currie Memorial Trophy** is presented at the end of each tournament to the provincial team that amasses the highest team total points, and this year the winner was the overall team from the **province of Quebec**.



*The rest of the competitors as well as the members from the **Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club** and the organizers of **The Atlantics of 2021** extend their heartiest of congratulations. Well done.*

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*Additional photography
thanks to **Susan Fortune***