



Sports Outlook

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Herald Sports Editor



Lawn bowling challenge pits mind over matter

By COLIN GIBSON
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I had this strange feeling of impending doom shortly after I accepted the challenge, but since I had committed myself to the match, decided to throw caution to the wind and present myself, in the proper all-white attire, at the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club.

Besides, if things started to go badly, I could always use the defence of temporary insanity - a plea that the majority of my friends would endorse wholeheartedly regardless of my sporting venture.

I had agreed to take on Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club Vice President Archie Pollock, in an eight-end game and learn a bit about the game, the club and its history.

I had never met Archie, but assumed - incorrectly, as usual - that I should have no problem topping a 66-year-old in any athletic event.

I arrived at the Lawn Bowling Club on the corner of Edith and William Streets and was greeted by a dapper man with a ready grin. I was sure the club had imported a ringer after we shook hands and a numbness slowly extended from my fingers on up to my shoulder.

Club President Alice Gray, who was to umpire the match, assured me that such was not the case as I prepared for the game by soaking my still-tingling fingers in cold water.

My opponent, obviously in peak physical condition - belying his stated 66 years - gave me a rudimentary introduction to the game.

He described lawn bowling as "curling on grass," with much the same rules.

Instead of a button, as in curling, a white ball known as a jack is rolled a minimum of 70 feet down the green, then centred.

Each player has four bowls - two weighted on the right side and two weighted on the left side allowing them to curve either right or left - and the object of the game is to get your bowls closest to the jack.

There is no minimum weight to the bowls but the maximum weight can be no more than 3½ lbs.

Archie was gracious enough to allow me some practice shots and after retrieving my bowls which landed near the road on the other side of the club's fence I hinted that I was ready to get down to business.

I won the toss and the game was on.

Archie led, 1-0 after the first end but I got one in second end and we were tied.

Archie "stole" two points in the third end to go ahead 3-1 and all of a sudden I realized the game was not as simple as it appeared.

When the score reached 7-1 after four ends, I decided something had to be done.

I could either drop-kick Archie and claim I had slipped on the

grass or engage him in conversation to take his mind off the game.

I chose the latter recourse as the safer route after watching Archie tossing the bowls around as if they were feathers.

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club was established in 1908 and was originally located just off Main Street, behind the present Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

It was moved to its present site in 1918 and the log cabin on the club property has a history of its own.

The cabin was erected in 1840 on the Fourth Line West, Chinguacousy County and was the property of James McKane and Elizabeth Lyons.

In 1918 it was donated to the club in 1918.

In 1914 the club joined the Dominion and Central Clubs Association. The members presently compete in the five-club District No. 9 division of the Provincial Lawn Bowling Association. District No. 9 includes Georgetown, Streetsville, Milton, Oakville and Port Credit.

Archie Pollock, Don Murray and Norris Hobbs won District No. 9's Men's Seniors Championship.

The Georgetown club currently boasts 41 members and the annual membership fee has been set at \$50. According to Alice Gray, junior memberships are available for \$25.

The lawn bowling season runs from May to October and the club is open Mondays, Tuesdays,



The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club, established in 1908, is still going strong at its location on the corner of Edith and William Streets. Club President Alice Gray and club Vice President Archie Pollock are hoping for a resurgence of interest in the sport, locally. (Herald photo)

Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays on a weekly basis.

The club has lights to allow for night bowling.

Although a set of bowls can cost upwards of \$100, a number of sets are available from the club for use by players. The only equipment needed is a pair of flat-soled shoes.

Meanwhile, the challenge match was progressing.

I narrowed Archie's lead to 7-2 after five ends and after seven ends the game stood at 8-3 in Archie's favor.

With one end to go, things looked pretty bleak. Time to take drastic action.

Archie was sent off to the clubhouse to get me some water as I claimed light-headedness. This was verified by the squirrels watching the match from the surround-

ing trees as they seemed to view me as one of their own kind. Maybe this was just my imagination, but I'm sure they were eyeing the bowls as something to be swiped and stored for the coming winter months.

Anyway, by the time Archie returned, two of my bowls were resting next to the jack.

Being the gentleman he is, he never questioned how they got there. However, he did refuse to get me anymore water.

The game ended 8-5 in Archie's favor and a good time was had by all - including the squirrels, who shrieked in anger after we put the bowls away.

Further information on the club and its activities can be obtained by contacting either Alice Gray at 877-2814 or Archie Pollock at 877-9206.

Some tips on Lawn Bowling procedures



Proper bowling form



You don't play to the crowd



Sportsmanship is stressed



Not quite right



Umpire makes final decision



All's well that ends well