

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lawn Bowls Clubs across state to have free Open Houses May 9th

Northern Calif. May 1st. The governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared Sat May 9th as California Lawn Bowls Day, and to celebrate this event, as well as to expose the sport to the general public, most clubs in Northern California will be having a "Saturday on the Green" Lawn Bowling Open House on that day. While not all clubs are public clubs, many are affiliated with their city parks and recreation departments who will be sharing in some of these celebrations.

In England, Scotland (where it originated) and the former British Colonies, Lawn Bowls is simply known as bowling, but in the USA it is often an invisible sport. Invisible that is except to its passionate members who are in it for the gentle exercise, the social outdoor camaraderie, or the excitement of competition that requires a masterful touch and a lot of mental strategy and stamina.

"Because it can be played by people of all ages, and because of its popularity in some sunshine retirement areas, many people have thought of lawn bowls as a retirees sport, " said Peter Knopf, current president of the local division. "And yes, we do have some tournaments for seniors (over 70's), but in fact, our best local pairs team is often two teenage brothers. And many a ladies tournament is now won by ladies under the age of 30. So it is the one sport anyone can easily learn and play for a very low annual membership fee. In most social games men and women compete on the same teams."

The following Northern California clubs will be throwing their facilities open to the public for free trial introductions and fun anytime between 10am and 3pm, Saturday May 9th:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oakland (Lake Merritt) | San Francisco (Golden Gate Park) | Palo Alto (Embarcadero Ave) |
| San Jose (Bramhall Park) | Sunnyvale (Murphy Park) | Del Mesa (Carmel) |
| Santa Cruz (San Lorenzo Park) | Berkeley (Acton Ave) | Richmond (33rd St) |

For directions and contact information at the nearest club, please see the club directory at www.uslba.org/pimd.html. All you need to bring is a pair of soft, flat shoes.

Lawn bowling in the USA is administered by the US Lawn Bowling Association, an all volunteer non-profit organization. For full details, please see their website at www.USLBA.org. Affiliated clubs in Northern California are organized as the Pacific Intermountain Division for competitive and local promotional efforts. "Bowling in the Sunshine" and "Outdoor Bowling" are taglines sometimes used by USLBA clubs and organizations. Lawn bowls shares some heritage with bocce (Italy) or boule (France) but is played on a very flat grass green. It is also known as English Lawn Bowls or simply English Bowling.

Contacts: Athol Foden 650-704-8181 (athol@svmarketeer.com)