



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

Sherry Nogle, Editor Don Webb, Assistant Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A BIG “Thank You” goes out to all our New Bocce Club Members and returning Club Members for making our club what it is today. You have pushed us to reach a new record membership level of 166 members!

It’s also rewarding to see how much progress the new members have made in developing their bocce skills. I want to thank all the experienced members for helping the new players advance in their game skills.

Your Bocce Board is working hard to bring you more Bocce Babe games, New Player events, League play, and Play Days and Socials for the coming months.

BOCCE CLUB WILD AND CRAZY HAT EVENT

Bocce members braved the misty, dripping wet weather to participate in the Wild and Crazy Hat Day. There were gardening hats, boating hats, Mexican hats, silly hats, serious hats, and very imaginatively decorated hats. The “You’re Kidding” award went to Shirley Worth for her lovely decorated hat, complete with two bocce courts on the brim. The “Is It Alive” was won by Janet Platteborze; her hat had flowers growing out of the back edge of the rim. The “Oh, No” award was presented to Sherry Nogle for her stylish black hat, complete with black veil. She was all ready for a funeral!

All the hat-wearing attendees enjoyed three games of bocce. Go to the Bocce Club website and check-out the photos!

LADIES BOCCE LEAGUE STARTS APRIL 10

The second Ladies Bocce League of the year will begin on Monday, April 10, 2017. The league will start at 9:00 AM. We will play Sun City rules; three games to 12, with no time limits. The league will have a maximum of 16 players.

NEW TO THE BOCCE FAMILY

Duff and Gerry Bourgeois
Curtis Broughton
David Brown
Jim Brownlow
Edward and Annie French
Richard and Marlene Leverington
Donald and Carol Robertson
Heather Sengupta
Rita Springer

GENESIS OF THE BOCCE BALL CLUB AT SUN CITY, TEXAS

Written by Bob Hazelwood



Don Webb watches as Bob Hazelwood throws the pallino

To the best of my recollection, the Bocce Ball Club had its roots planted in late fall 1996 or early spring 1997. It was a loose organization of fun-loving men and women engaged in “throwing the ball around” outdoors according to rules unfamiliar in most part to them (at least unfamiliar to all but two of them who said that they had played the game in their youth on the east coast). How do I know? Because of my introduction to the game and my later role as the first President of the Club.

Shortly after moving to Sun city in fall of 1996, I wandered down to the Bocce courts to see what this game was all about. I had never seen or heard of it before. Two courts were in use, with a few people playing and most watching, a total of about

10-15 people. Much shouting, much laughter, much excitement and satisfaction were evident. After a few minutes, one of the more vocal and animated players came over and invited me to join them in play. I deferred saying that I had never played or even seen it played before. He countered that the game was easy, that I could learn as I played. He would be my partner. Between throws I was introduced to some of the history of Bocce Ball and to some of the rules, though he admitted that they didn't use many and ignored more. Just call me "Jimmy" and pointing to a rather large, robust looking man nearby, Jimmy said he was the "leader" named Ron. What I didn't notice while we were playing and talking was that most of the stand-around visitors present when I had arrived were now gone, disappeared. And in their place was a large group of people carrying all types of equipment standing in and around the edges of both courts. Yep! Local TV station 4 had come to view and interview participants of Bocce Ball and tell the local GT public audience "all about one of the many amenities available at the new Del Webb development". Here they were, 20 minutes after I first stood on the court, asking me questions about the game, its origin, its difficulties, its prevalence in the US, etc., etc. All of the players who previously greeted me seem to have disappeared and I had been singled out to educate the public! Fortunately, Ron came to my assistance and the interview was short.

The bug had bitten me and I returned to the courts to wait my turn to play on a regular basis thereafter. Waiting to play was a standard procedure in those days. Games were always in the early AM, we never really considered the PM regardless of weather. One day Ron came to the courts with a box under his arm and declared that he was tired of being "the leader" and requested relief. Jimmy had already stopped coming to the courts and the only other experienced person was H. R. Stevens who quickly announced that he was changing to table pool as a hobby. Too bad, because he was exceptionally talented on the court and also a good teacher. So, he went to the pool club and was instrumental in setting up their club and its advancement. Reluctantly, after playing only a few weeks, I said I would take over the so-called "leadership" of the club. Ron's box contained a couple of measuring tapes, a couple of pallinas, a bocce ball, and some memos sent to him by Posey Duncan of the CA office. She was evidently assigned the duty of managing and developing the Horseshoe and Bocce Ball clubs. Her memos to Ron were examples of rules used as how to play Bocce; she drew her condensation of rules from several sources (mainly the Academy Stores) and melded them into one and told us that we should play by "Sun City Bocce Ball" rules (she never did play, to my knowledge). Some players did, and some players didn't play by her rules. Discord was common. Also in Ron's box was a memo to Ron stating that if the bocce Ball club was to be considered a major amenity of the community, it would need to be a Chartered

Club, and laid down the steps to be taken to be one. At that time (circa 1997) Horseshoes was already a Chartered Club with some forty members (Bocce had 20-25) and was led by Bunkie Bensel, who incidentally was a Bocce Ball member. Bunkie was very effective in pounding on the CA's desk and applying pressure to gain what was good for Horseshoes. Thus, Horseshoes was Chartered, more than twice Bocce Ball members in size, upgraded in playing surface, and assisted need in attracting regional recognition for holding large matches. Bocce Ball, its neighbor, was not chartered, had fewer members, needed playing surface upgrading, and needed more courts. Our courts consisted of 4 large cement rectangles and a coarse felt carpet glued to it, and each bounded with 6x6' timbers. Nothing fancy here.

A meeting was held by concerned Bocce Ball members for the purpose of gaining Charter Club status, for directional governance, and for maintaining pleasure and satisfaction for its members. Elected were: Bob Hazelwood as President, Vice President-Lee Parrish, Secretary/Treasurer-Kay McConaughy, Board directors-Bud Hesch, Jerry Early and Jeanene Carmichael. Dorothea Parsons was named Social Director. A year later, Buffy, an English Springer Spaniel, was named Official Mascot of the club.

The Board and Officers tackled the necessary tasks to become a Chartered Club, namely drawing up a set of By-Laws, set elections, establish dues, establish a standard form of playing rules, decide objectives for future growth and development, etc. Jerry Early drew up plans for shade awnings between the courts so that we could play in the afternoon, but they were rejected by the CA as too expensive. The Club president spent more time and energy at the CA's desk requesting more courts and upgrading of deck coverings. These were partially achieved by being placed on the Budget Committee's agenda, but they ran out of money before reaching us on the list. So, new courts were added to the next year's budget, but at \$14,000 each, they were not delivered when the CA's chief was transferred to Arizona. Verbally, he was a strong friend of Bocce. Rules of the game underwent minor changes, finally satisfying most and simply called, "Sun City Bocce Ball Rules". And Bunkie Bensel led the Horseshoe group in several out-of-state inter-regional tournaments, pleasing the Del Webb organization greatly by attracting many locals outside visitors and the general public.

A general memo from the CA to all sports and unchartered clubs was sent out advising us that all clubs had to have a minimum of 50 paid members to gain/maintain Chartered Club status. Once it did, the club would receive \$200 and receive further endorsement and support of the CA. Bocce and other low-member clubs were asked to provide evidence of monthly member use of facilities to keep their Charter status. Thus, we instituted the plan for all players to sign a

dated roll when appearing on the court. These roll sheets were collected monthly, signed by the Secretary, and turned in to the CA office. This list also served a second purpose, for it established who was next in line to play when the courts were full. By the second year of operation, Bocce Ball was deemed Chartered and received its \$200. For the first time in its history, Bocce Ball Club had a decent bank account, though we were limited in what and how we could spend. We numbered about 40-45 members and had our first Christmas dinner-party (funded totally by a benevolent Board member) at Jimmy Carinas Italian restaurant on I-35.

The battle to add shade, upgrade playing surface, and increase the number of Bocce Ball courts continued with little success, the explanation by the CA being that there was too little money available. But they did acknowledge that more courts would take precedent. And the existing leader promised the issue would be included in the next year's budget. Two weeks later we learned that he was promoted to a new position within the organization in Nevada! Bocce was back to square one.

Despite these various issues, the Club grew and maintained a high level of sociability and civility. Jimmy (VanVranken) left to spend more time playing guitar and ukulele in local Country and Blue Grass music groups; Harley's wife, Jeanene, frequently brought her pet cockatiel perched on her shoulder while playing bocce; H. R. Stevens, the ace of the courts, and always "wearing" a towel over his shoulder (like TV's Chef Emeril) left to start up the table Pool Club where he still wore the towel; George Wagner (who recently had a Georgetown middle school named after him for dedicated mentor work with disadvantage students) added much humor to the courts; as did Kay McConaughey (yes, the Mother of THE Matthew McConaughey of Hollywood fame); and Matt Constatino (whose service as a US Marine on Guadalcanal in WW II was highlighted in a recent issue of Georgetown View) regaled us on how Bocce Ball was played in the old days. Approximately two years passed and the Bocce Ball Club grew, and long-term friendships were established. Camaraderie prevailed. A monthly Bocce Newsletter was issued in effort to keep all members up-to-date on all Bocce Ball issues, especially since only 15-20 out of a total 30-40 members were regular players. The Newsletter was a single typed page, signed (sometimes with Mascot Buffy's print), and mailed to each BBC member at their residence. After about a year the Newsletter was discontinued and elections brought in a new President of the Club, Tom Crawford (who is still active in SC politics). But all in all, all of the benefits of playing Bocce Ball here in SC were and are achievable, such as improvement in quality of life, mental sharpness, mobility and flexibility, and building confidence while lowering stress levels as Sherry Nogle has suggested in a recent Newsletter.

NEW RESIDENT ORIENTATION

The Bocce Club will be represented at the next New Resident Orientation on Monday, April 17th, where Chartered Clubs can participate in a Club Fair prior to the CA presentations. Steve Mellinger and Anne Warnock look forward to meeting prospective bocce players who are new to Sun City.



BOCCE HIGH ROLLERS

December

Larry Hunting 5 pointer

January

Stanley Payne 5 pointer

Paul Wiener 5 pointer

March

Paul Wiener 5 pointer

Sally Aveni 5 pointer



Thank you Stanley Payne and Bill Wightman for donating money to buy 2 Wheeled Igloo Ice Chest for our Club.

THE SOCIAL SIDE OF BOCCE



New Player Water Days Bocce Event is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd from 9:00 AM and ending at 11:00 AM. New Players are asked to bring bottled drinking water or a \$3.00 donation to help provide water on hot days.

Field Day with GISD Special Needs Students is on the calendar for Thursday, April 13th from 10:00 to 1:00 PM. Twenty-four Special Needs students from Georgetown Independent School District are coming to Sun City to play bocce. Fifteen Bocce Members have already sign-up to help. They will have the



opportunity to teach these students how to play bocce. Our goal is to create new friendships with our new “bocce buddies” and to have fun!

After playing a few games, we’ll

gather for food, fellowship, and awards. Then at 1:00, the students will be off to the bus and headed back to school.



THE BOCCE SUPERHEROES ARE BACK!



Guess who will be serving the ladies at the next Bocce Babe Event? It’s our BOCCE SUPERHEROES! On Saturday, April 15th at 10:00-1:00; the Bocce Babes will gather to play three games of bocce. Then it is off to the patio to sit and relax and be pampered by the Bocce Superheroes. They will be serving Steve’s mimosas and Sherry’s sticky buns. Don’t miss out!

BENTORNATO! Welcome back the Italian Cultural Association

Once again, the ICA is returning to Sun City! On Saturday, April 15, 2017, the group will be joining our Bocce Club to play three spirited games of bocce. Game time begins at 1:00 PM and will end at 4:00 PM. After the games, we’ll spend a relaxing time on the patio eating and drinking and visiting with one another. Bring your favorite beverage and the club will furnish hors d’oeuvres. The first 18 members to sign-up will get to participate in this event! E-mail Sherry Nogle at nogle1956@gmail.com to sign-up.

JELLY BEAN BOCCE DAY

Come play 3 games of bocce, eat Jelly Beans and guess how many Jelly Beans are in the jar. If you guess the correct number of beans in the jar, you win that jar of Jelly Beans. The event is Saturday, April 22nd at 10:00 – Noon.



NEW PLAYER GAME DAY

New Players will be gathering to play 3 games of bocce on Saturday, April 29th at 9:00 AM. The event ends at 11:00. All skills are welcomed.

UPCOMING APRIL BOCCE EVENTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
New Player Bocce Water Days	Mon. April 3, 9-11:00	Bring bottled water or \$3.00 donation
Adv. League II	Tues. April 4, 11, 18 at 8:00	4th week of play
Ladies League II	Mon. April 10, 17, 24, 9:00	Sun City Rules, 16 players
Field Day/GISD Special Students	Thurs. April 13, 10-1:00	15 members working with 24 students, playing bocce/eating
Bocce Babes and their Superheroes	Sat. April 15, 10-1:00	3 games/Steve’s Mimosas and Sherry’s Sticky Buns
Italian Cultural Assoc.	Sat. April 15, 1-4:00	3 mixed games, eating; 1st 18 to sign-up
Bocce Board Mtg.	Thurs. April 20, 3:30 AC	Bocce Business
Jelly Bean Bocce	Sat. April 20, 10-12:00	3 games, eat Jelly Beans, win jar
New Player Day	Sat. April 29, 9-11:00	Tournament Play