

## **Barefoot BOWLS** **“Unofficial World Championship”**

Six members of our club ( Denis Sigfusson, Flo Hurtubise, Sandy Sainiuk, Diana Bencivenga, Ed and Jean Wagstaff ) took a trip to Hawaii in February to spend a few days in the sun competing in the "Unofficial world barefoot bowls unofficial championship tournament". With February being in the rainy season for Hawaii, the weather provided its fair share of rain showers for most of our weeks' stay. This certainly did not deter hosting of this fun event by the Honolulu Lawn Bowls Club; a three day, three bowls pairs event. A total of eighteen teams were entered, comprised of competitors from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New York, San Francisco, Hawaii, and of course, Canada.

We showed up to register and practice the morning prior to the tournament to find a bumpy, patchy, inconsistent green that presented a challenge for memorizing weight and line. Competitors were divided into two groups of eight teams, with a bye for each group. Games were six ends, round robin in each group to determine four teams from each group to qualify for the playoffs. Then came two days of intense, challenging bowling for everyone, made enjoyable with the camaraderie and light hearted sportsmanship of fellow competitors; not to mention some rather strange interpretation of the rules. After the round robin of eight games and a bye for each team was completed, the scores were tallied. Ed playing lead and Jean playing 'skip' came second in their group, qualifying for the quarter finals.

On the day of the playoffs the rain poured virtually non stop, and bowling was hampered by the bowls picking up layers of cut grass and mud ( the green has a mostly earth base). Ed and Jean just did not adapt quickly enough to the conditions and were soundly beaten by the team from Australia/Fiji that went on to place second in the final. However, our six players enjoyed the welcome from our hosts, who provided a light breakfast and a lovely fresh lunch each day, with a fun Luau the evening of the last day - all part of the entry fee, along with a colourful golf style shirt and ball cap.

We had fun at the bowling, we had fun together during our free time, including a birthday celebration for Denis, but most of all, the time spent together forged further friendships between club members, making this a worthwhile and memorable trip.

Ed and Jean Wagstaff

PHOTOS on NEXT PAGE ... === >>>

