

Season Ends

By Charlie McBriarty

The Ancient Mariners, one of Pine Knoll Shores' longest-standing organizations, concluded another bowling season in traditional manner with a banquet on March 31. Featured were an extensive buffet, cash awards and celebration of Vivian Macdonald's 96th birthday with a huge cake. Vivian was one of the founding members of the organization and has continued to bowl for the past forty-plus years.

Bowling began in late September with 12 three-member teams, and each Monday afternoon, these teams bowled three games to determine which team could amass the greatest number of points out of the four possible. The team having the highest score at the end of each match was awarded a point. The fourth point was awarded to the team with the highest pin total, including handicap, for the three-game match.

The season was split in half with 12 matches held from September through late December and the remaining 12 from January through March. The "Looney Tunes" team of Lois Karcmarcik, Charlie Kirchner and Ruth Whitney was the number one team for the first half of the season. The "Super Bowlers" team of Diane Carlin, Lib Fleming and Jim Fix won the second half of the season.

As usual, the banquet was a festive event to cap-off the season. Winners and losers alike filled the evening with fun, tales of achievements and cries of "Wait until next year." Of course, it would not have been complete without acknowledgement of individual and team achievement and presentation of cash awards for their efforts.

Individual awards for women and men included:

- High Average—Edna Tart and Bob Slater
- Most Improved Bowler—Marty Hare and Vic Filan
- High Handicap Game—Pauly Brown and Tom Garry
- High Scratch Game—Edna Tart and Larry Karcmarcik
- High Handicap Series—Lois Karcmarcik and Bob Gallo
- High Scratch Series—Judy Garry and Bob Slater

Team high series and game awards included:

- High Scratch Series to team "Wait til Next Week"—Terry Carlin, Dot Manion and Teddy Wimberly
- High Handicap Series to team "Super Bowlers"—Diane Carlin, Lib Fleming and Jim Fix
- High Scratch Game to team "His Gals"—Pauly Brown, Larry Karcmarcik, Mary Rice
- High Handicap Game to team "Ready, Willing & Able"—Judy Garry, Polly Moren and Bob Slater

Season team point winners included:

- Last Place was team "High Hopes"—Bob Gallo, Vivian Macdonald and Lil Zamminer
- Fifth Place was team "Always Trying"—Clark Edwards, Tom Martynowski and Carolyn Slater
- Fourth Place was team "Deaf Tones"—Jack Doyle, Tom Garry and Marty Hare
- Third Place was team "Super Bowlers"—Diane Carlin, Lib Fleming and Jim Fix
- Second Place was team "His Gals"—Pauly Brown, Larry Karcmarcik and Mary Rice
- First Place was team "Looney Tunes"—Lois Karcmarcik, Charlie Kirchner and Ruth Whitney

The final award, The Most Inspirational Bowler Award, was presented to Vivian Macdonald.

Concluding the presentation of all of the awards, Barbara Fix, league secretary, thanked her fellow officers—Treasurer Lois Karcmarcik, Vice President Nick Policastro, and President Jim Fix—for their work during the course of the year. She then reminded all of the bowlers to sign up for the 2011-2012 season and encouraged each of them to solicit additional bowlers for next year.

Pet Corner

Facts and Myths about Heartworm

By Jacquie Pipkin

Recently, WebMD Healthy Pets asked Sheldon Rubin, president of the American Heartworm Society, to debunk the myths about heartworm infestation in pets. The formula is simple: **Mosquitoes + Pets = Heartworm**. It takes only one bite from one infected mosquito to jeopardize your pet's life. The prevention is easy; the cure is costly and not always effective.

Heartworm disease can only be transmitted by an infected mosquito. There are more than 70 species of mosquitoes that can transmit the disease. Heartworm is a parasite that affects dogs, cats and ferrets. In rare cases, people and other mammals have been known to be infected by heartworms. Heartworm has been diagnosed in all 50 states.

There is no obvious way to tell whether your pet has been bitten by an infected mosquito; initially an infected pet shows no symptoms of the disease. Once dogs reach one year of age, and every year after, they should be tested for heartworms.

It's only after the worms have multiplied and become adults that they crowd the heart and lungs. Adult heartworms can grow to 12 inches and live for seven years. Initially, most pets will develop a chronic cough. As the disease progresses, breathing will become labored, your pet will become winded more easily and exercise will be too exhausting. In advanced stages, you may hear abnormal lung sounds, and your pet may pass out from lack of blood to the brain. Most pets will die if not treated. Treatment can cost from \$300 to \$1000.

The only choice for protecting your pet from contracting heartworm disease is prevention, which comes in several forms: a pill taken monthly, topical solutions applied to the skin and an injection given every six months. It is best to discuss the appropriate option for your pet with your vet. Depending on the weight of your dog, a year's supply of heartworm preventative will cost between \$30 and \$100, a tenth of the cost of treatment.

You may be wondering why it's necessary to continue administering the preventative during the winter months in areas where there are mosquitoes. The simple answer is human nature. WebMD reports that owners forgetting to resume preventative heartworm treatment once the mosquito season starts is a universal problem. In addition, who is to decide the official opening of mosquito season? What if you don't see the first mosquito to arrive? If you protect your pet for 12 months of the year and miss one month, chances are your pet will still be protected. If you miss two or more months, you risk your pet becoming infected. As we all know, no cost can be attached to the loss of a beloved pet. For your peace of mind and your pet's wellbeing, spend the small amount it will take to ensure they are protected all year.

Do you have questions for Pets' Corner? Send them to JPIPKIN@ec.rr.com.

