

UNITED STATES BOCCE FEDERATION QUARTERLY



MAY 2022

LETTER FROM THE USBF PRESIDENT

Hello USBF Members!

2022 has started off with a bang! Bocce tournaments are being held all across the USA from Florida to California. I would like to thank everyone for their support and welcome all the new members and Clubs.



Our National event has returned to its usual month and will be held again at the [Methuen Sons of Italy](#) Club near Boston, MA. Currently, the World Championship is scheduled for early November in Turkey. The USBF follows the format set by CBI and this year there are several modalities we will be qualifying players for. It is very important for our federation to have a great turnout and send the best players we have to represent not only the USBF but the USA!

All the qualifying events are listed on our website as well as all the information you will need to make it an enjoyable week. There is also an International event taking place at the Palazzo di Bocce in Lake Orion, Michigan this July. It will feature 16 Doubles teams from all over the World. It is an invitation only tournament and this is the second time it will be played. The current champions are from Italy represented by Mirko Savoretti and Emiliano Benedetti.



If you are in the area it is a great weekend for spectators. Other tournaments are being held in Wickliffe and Kettering, Ohio, along with Racine, Wisconsin as well as the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama.

I personally want to wish everyone a great bocce season full of exciting games and fun. The USBF has been working diligently to improve or eliminate many issues that have plagued us for several years. A very special thank you to Laura, Marsha, Nancy, Joe and Ken for their hard work and sacrifices. Again thanks for the support and I hope to see many of you in Methuen! Stay healthy and safe.

[Danny Passaglia](#)
USBF President

WESTERN SECTOR

Campo Di Bocce of Los Gatos

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

How do you calculate the countless love affairs with bocce that Campo di Bocce (CdB) of Los Gatos has spurred, because a man named Tom Albanese had a brain storm and bought an old lumber yard in downtown Los Gatos, California?

The year was 1997, and Tom Albanese owner and founder of CdB had a vision and that vision earned him a place on the United States Bocce Federation's Wall of Honor. Not for his bocce skills, but for his vision, charity, friendship and support to the game of bocce.



Tom Albanese (far left), Campo di Bocce owner, introduces long term employees during 25 year anniversary celebration. Most have been with Campo 20 to 25 years.



The following is from Tom's 2006 Wall of Honor declaration: *"His vision in building a first class facility where beginners and experts can enjoy the game and a fine meal has inspired others to continue with the concept, most notably the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion, Michigan."* A rare honor Tom received only 9 years from opening CdB.

Campo di Bocce's most successful charity event started in 1998, when he and friend Steve Mariucci, former 49ers head coach collaborated on a tournament to raise money for what turned out to be dozens of charities over the years. Eventually John Madden gave his support to the annual event known for years as the Madden-Mariucci Tournament: Battle of the Bay. Over the tournaments 25 year history it has given over \$8 million to various charities including Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House and other local charities. Pre-covid CdB hosted 10-12 large fund raisers each year.



Campo di Bocce Los Gatos: "Coach Moch", Steve Mariucci (center) doing introductions during kick-off of the 2021 Battle of the Bay, Charity Bocce Tournament. Center with back to picture in gray shirt and cameo hat is former 49ers fullback, Tom Rathman, a big supporter of the tournament. This was first year without John Madden and next year's tournament will be dedicated to the recently deceased Hall of Famer, John Madden.

One of our favorite days of the year!!! You won't be able to spot them all, but among the local USBF bocce clubs that volunteer to referee the tournament are several former USBF National Championship medal winners. On far right is another Wall of Honor

member from CdB, Michael Nicosia, a 2008 honoree and winner of world and national medals. He is 91 now and still getting out to the courts.



CdB plays host to several leagues including a 16 team senior league, and a brand new Punto, Raffa, Volo league on Sunday mornings. PRV players: Thank you, CdB. If you stop by on a Wednesday night there is a fair chance you might catch Tom Albanese, and Steve Mariucci playing with their league teams.

Back to the earlier question, how many love affairs with bocce has CdB spurred in the Los Gatos and Livermore areas? Players that consider CdB their home court over the years have collected 165 United States Bocce Federation National Championship medals, starting with the first two medals in 1999.

Celebrating CdB's 25th anniversary coincided with the Maureen Albanese Valentine's Day Memorial Tournament, named after Tom's late wife. Twenty-four teams were treated to a great breakfast, an excellent lunch and even better competition.



First round play! Notice the Valentine's Day colors?



Valentine's Day Tournament Breakfast: 24 teams participated, winners taking home \$800



First Place: Ken Gorny, Cynthia Dzdzdz, Joanne Lopez, Alan Knox



Second Place: John Ross, Andrea Ross, Jo Ann Jacobs, Ron Jacobs.



Split 3rd & 4th Place: Mike Schmidt, Marianne Schmidt, Marsha Jones, Gary Scardina.



Split 3rd & 4th Place: Ben Musolf, Jeff Ferrari,
Players Missing: Rick Taormina, JD Testa.

CdB is one of the top bocce facilities in the Country with 8 championship quality courts (4 inside and 4 in a covered courtyard) with fine casual dining offered courtside and in dining area. This is a must addition to a bocce lovers bucket list. For more information Google the Campo di Bocce Facebook page and website.

Alan Knox contributed to this article

WASHINGTON STATE BOCCE OPEN

The Washington State Bocce Open returned after a two-year hiatus in Auburn, Washington taking place in Les Grove Gymnasium with four courts (10 x70 carpeted courts) on Sunday March 20th. Players from Oregon and Washington flocked to tourney to shake off the rust from the summer to participate in a rare indoor tournament.



Team Champions: Scott Henry, Wyatt Henry, Chris Henry, Pat Henry

When all the balls have been rolled, Seattle's premier bocce family, Team Henry, who can put together at least two teams of experienced players with numerous Open championships, took home the championship again. Team members were Scott Henry, Scott's son: Wyatt Henry, Scott's brother: Pat Henry, and finally Pat's son: Chris Henry. Paesano Bocce Club's perennial power, I Prescelti, came in second. Team members were Butch Mason, Cody Mason, Mario Pompei, and Doug Burchak. The State of Oregon got two teams in the top three as Pallino or Bust rebounded from their only loss in the semifinals to claim third place, Team members were Brad Cotton, Rick Cervi, Joachim Creten and Eric Jacobson.



Doubles 1st Place: Drew Sternen and Christopher Caligiuri



Doubles 2nd Place: Salvatore Cascone and Gerry DiPietro



Team 2nd Place: Doug Burchak, Butch Mason, Cody Mason, Mario Pompei



Team 3rd Place: Rick Cervi, Brad Cotton, Joachim Creten, Eric Jacobson

Preceding the Washington Open. A twenty-five doubles teams' event was held on Saturday March 19th. Rising stars, Rock n Rollers, Christopher Caligiuri and Drew Sternen took home the crown. The runner ups were Auburn's OG Salvatore Cascone and Gerry DiPietro.

Now the NW players will forward to spring sunshine days to tune their game and prepare for the busy summer 2022 league and tournament schedule.

Brad Cotton contributed to this article

WHAT IS THE BEST SURFACE FOR BOCCE COURTS IN PUBLIC PARKS?

Many USBF players are interested in finding the best bocce court surface available for public parks. The ideal surface would require no or low maintenance.

The courts where I learned to play, in Scotts Valley, California, are decomposed



Scotts Valley Skypark courts. It shows how much effort was required to level and flatten the courts.

granite with oyster shell flour. The oyster shell is becoming more difficult to find for environmental reasons, and much effort is required to keep the courts playable, especially after rains in the winter. We are currently researching a synthetic surface that is durable enough for year-round use outdoors in a public park.

Synthetic surfaces have improved over the years, but some deteriorate when exposed to sun or rain, or are not easily repaired or replaced when defects become apparent. While some “character” adds to the challenge and unpredictability of the game, the time and expense needed to maintain the playability of the courts in all seasons are critical factors in the choice of court surface.

Although many of the tournaments for the Nationals are held indoors, most of us still play on outdoor courts, which became critical during COVID restrictions. Having a USBF-recommended outdoor synthetic surface that could withstand the weather would be of great value in promoting the installation of new bocce courts in public parks.



If our goal is to promote bocce, creating low-cost access for all would be a great step forward.

Players using the courts are exposed to sun and weather. You can see the cutout for wheelchair access and how the park is surrounded by neighborhoods with easy access to the park.

If you believe that the surface you play on regularly would be ideal for any public park, please contact Cynthia Dzendzel at cyndzen@earthlink.net to share information about the manufacturer and installer, as well as the underlying layers that ensure proper drainage and leveling of the court. Links to online information, PDF's of plans showing the underlying layers and specifying the surface, and the history on maintenance would be greatly appreciated.

If YOU have advice to share, please join the conversation. A regular feature of this newsletter could be a discussion of the costs and benefits of each type of court. Please submit an article, if you would like to support this effort.

Submitted by [Cynthia Dzendzel](#)
Felton, California

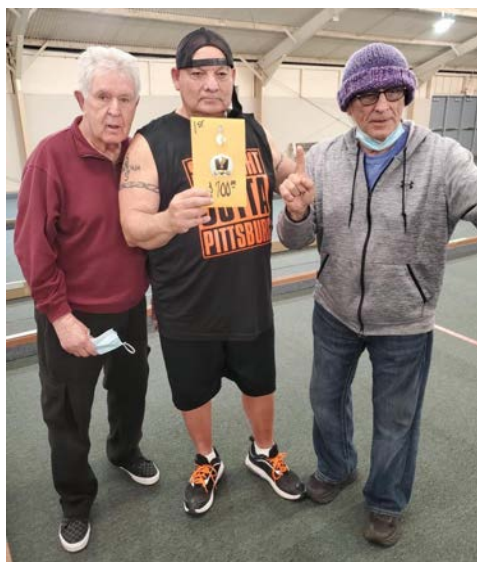
PRE LAS VEGAS TOURNAMENT

Due to the incredible popularity of the Las Vegas 3 on 3 National Tournament more than a couple of bocce clubs around California have found another reason to host a bocce tournament. Not that we need a reason but it's nice to have an excuse and a goal.

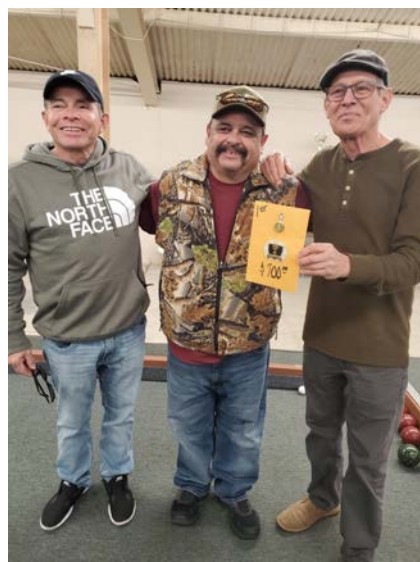
Contra Costa County held their 3 on 3 tournament January 22, 2022, in the [Contra Costa County's Indoor Bocce Club](#) with carpeting and everything. The participating teams are getting ready for LV and having fun doing it!! Teams came from Martinez, Pittsburg, Concord, Pleasant Hill, Benicia, Brentwood, Discovery Bay and some players came from Grass Valley and Napa Valley. Four top teams split a nice pot of prize money.



Teams not in order: Allison Bryan, Giovanni Altamura, Victor Delpine, Lisa Watson, Joe Oster, Laura De La Rosa. Split 3rd & 4th.



SDJ: Denny Kensil, Jess Quesada, Steve Castellano.
Split 1st 2nd.



4 Corners Bocce: Mario Mejic, Danny Mendoza, Mel Juner. **Split 1st 2nd.**

And a great bocce player Denny Kensil wins his last tournament. Sadly, Denny passed 2 months after this picture was taken. Denny played bocce for over 30 +++ years winning many tournaments including the Peppermill and several Contra Costa County Championship Tournaments. He was a member of Jonny B's for many years and also played for Squandered Talent.

[Alan Knox](#) contributed to this article

2022 LAS VEGAS NATIONAL OPEN BOCCE Tournament Final Results

Western Sector of the USBF appears to be populated with carpetbaggers. On the carpet western sector teams bagged first and second in Gold Division and first and second in the Silver Division.



From left top row: Guy DeSantis, Ken Gorny, Brian Peterson, Alan Knox, Bob Kennedy, Martha Crosley, Dario Bernardi, Jack Bilancia and Diane Kelly. Bottom row from left: Jimmy Collins, Frank DeSantis, Andy Zimmerman, Lauren McDermott, Paolo Pro, Alex Gara and Mike Pennino.

GOLD DIVISION:

- 1st - 3rd Dimension, Pleasanton, CA
- 2nd - Scott's Valley Montoni, Scotts Valley, CA
- 3rd - American Bocce Company, ABC Chicago, IL
- 4th - Lexington Bocce Association, Lexington, KY
- 5th - Red Hot and Rollin, Gresham, OR
- 6th - Fran's Team, Lake Orion, MI
- 7th - Vespucci #1, Danbury, CT
- 8th - Deboccery, Los Gatos, CA

Tie for 9th - 12th

- Tres Amigos, Martinez, CA
- Alta House, Cleveland, OH
- Doubleshot, Martinez, CA
- Advance Auto Body, Martinez, CA

Tie for 13th - 16th

- The Wonders, Seattle, WA
- Vespucci #3, Danbury, CT
- EccoBocce, Saratoga Springs, NY
- On A Roll

Tie for 17th - 24th

- Team Napoli, Gustine, CA
- California Crushers, Stockton, CA
- Team Rehab, Pittsburg, CA
- 24K Bocce, Antioch, CA
- Vespucci #2, Danbury, CT
- Paesani, Huntington Beach, CA
- Catullo Prime Meats, Youngstown, OH
- Favale, St. Petersburg, FL

- Tie For 25th - 32nd
- Dante Club, Fresno, CA
- WMD's, Gresham, OR
- Scarpo Marx, Los Gatos, CA
- DBC United, Dallas, TX
- Old Fisherman's Grotto, Monterey, CA
- Castlerock Bocce
- Son of A Bocce, Huntington Beach, CA
- Tre Diavoli, Salem, OR

SILVER DIVISION:

- 1st - Team Pro, Los Gatos, CA
- 2nd - Prossimo, Huntington Beach, CA
- 3rd - Coast 2 Coast, Mt. Vernon, NY. San Diego, CA
- 4th - Sempre Bocce, Sutter Creek, CA
- 5th - Whitestone, Whitestone, NY
- 6th - SMS, Madera, CA

The list of Teams has been provided by Mike Pennino.

[Alan Knox](#) contributed to this article

OPINIONS, JUST OPINIONS

Is the Las Vegas 3 on 3 National Tournament Extreme Training for Bocce Players, or a test of our sense of humor?

If you played Las Vegas Tournament (LVT) this last year or any year, while reading this short story, imagine Lou Reed's "Take a Walk on the Wild Side" playing in the background. Why? Because the Las Vegas National Tournament is a walk on the wild side of bocce. If you have yet to play LVT, but plan to, imagine theme song from "Deliverance" playing in background because you are about to get....never mind.

Athletes of all kinds purposefully put themselves in extreme training environments to improve performance under challenging conditions. Runners, cyclist, and even Michael Phelps train at altitudes exceeding 8,000 feet.

Is LVT a bocce player's altitude training? With few exceptions, there are limited opportunities in bocce to experience the rigorous training environment offered by LTV courts. Will LVT improve our long term performance? Sixty-five teams showed up to find out. What do you think? Are the carpets gone from your subconscious mind? Are your balls still five feet short of target? Chances are your balls will not be bouncing off the back wall for a few days at least. All this adjusting from on court surface to another must make us a bit better.

Challenging tournament, and environment? Most definitely. Courts and quality teams make it one of most challenging tournaments available. Playing 3 on 3, 12 balls on the court.....challenging? Yes! Twelve courts, each one distinct. Not unlike 12 different greens on a golf course. Very tough. Teams from all parts of the US, challenging? The best part.

Let's talk about the courts, the world renown, courts.

Concrete floor with carpet squares: It's completely possible the conference room floor was designed and installed by same people that develop tourist attractions called Mystery Spots, Magnetic Hill, Oregon Vortex, promising to show Nature and Physics gone berserk. The tournament organizers have gone to extreme length to provide players with flattest straightest courts possible, but when dealing with the mystery spot odds are not good.



Even professional slipper models play bocce at the 2022 Las Vegas National Bocce Tournament! South Point swag with sock option.

Here is how it works: A coin is flipped, the pallino (P) is rolled straight as an arrow, three quarters down middle of court. Everyone is thinking to themselves: "Wow that's weird. Looks like this court is rolling straight." Following path of P, first ball is rolled straight down the court, heading for certain contact with P. A foot from target, ball takes a sharp left turn for a 16" gap directly left of P (perfect speed, thinks everyone). Second player, having registered the sharp left turn, gauges the speed and rolls. A foot from a certain kiss of the P, the ball takes a sharp right turn, stopping 12" directly right of the P. Being early in first game players reactions are subdued, but the non-verbal response was clear: "Did that really happen?" And, yes it continues to happen for 3 wonderful days of extreme concentration and competition.

There comes a time in ever bocce player's life when they realize the most daunting opponent is the court and not the opposing team. That is what happens each year on a three day weekend in Las Vegas.

Highly recommend playing in this tournament but make sure to bring a sense of humor. And consider hiring a Personal Trainer to build endurance. A 65 team field with a seeding tournament, followed by a double elimination tournament can test anyone's stamina. Teams are promised a minimum of 6 games but falling into loser's bracket or silver division can result in 15 to 16 games. Interviewed a younger participant regarding their teams partying escapades. Answer was not surprising...."we were too tired." Heard another player say "we were so tired by Sunday, the three little pigs could have beat us".

Whether our games will improve from the experience we enjoyed in LV, one thing is certain..... we will be closer to 64 other teams because of the unifying experience groups feel when battling against a common opponent. And it is bocce not world affairs. Maybe Las Vegas generates a new level of Bocce Brother/Sisterhood? Gender Neutral-hood? Who knows? What Rolen Strait knows is "misery loves company" and we all love Las Vegas.

For more information join the group on Facebook: "Las Vegas National Open Bocce Tournament."

Rolen Strait contributed to this article

FAMILY BOCCE DAY AND CLINIC

Saturday, April 2, 2022

The [Martinez Bocce Federation](#), the largest Bocce club in the United States (2,700 + members), and the Western Sector of the United States Bocce Federation, collaborated to present their first ever Family Bocce Day & Clinic. Designed to introduce families to Open Bocce and more experienced players to PRV and Volo, it was a great first effort. Hours of hard work, enthusiastic volunteers and detailed planning led to a specific clinic on each of Martinez's 15 courts. Clinics included PRV measuring, pointing, PRV Raffa shooting, PRV Volo shots, 3 clinics for Open, 3 clinics for potential Volo players (metal balls) and 3 courts set aside for youth skills development.

Participant feedback: "I just want to thank everyone for all the hard work putting together such a wonderful event yesterday. Myself and my family had a lot of fun! It was a great day and good time. We will have to do this again." Thank You, *Laura*



Event was a coordination between USBF Western Sector and Martinez Bocce Federation.



The quiet before! View of some of the 15 lighted courts maintained by the Martinez Bocce Federation.



Attendance at the event was estimated between 120 to 150 attendees. An excellent initial effort.



Pointers learning to Raffa!!



Family learning about PRV for first time.



PRV Drills. Clearing the line!!



Ken Gorny, USBF Western Sector President, and Bob Kennedy setting up Raffa and Volo shooting skills training. Notice they are actually reading instructions!



Family Bocce at its best! Growing bocce one kid at a time! Bet his granddad plays bocce.



Another determined future star having a great day practicing and playing bocce.



Court and Raffle Gift Sponsors had their Logos, Company and/or Individual Names posted on each court that they Sponsored. Many thanks to all those Sponsors and Volunteers who made this Bocce Family Day possible. Those who already enjoy the sport expressed their willingness to learn new rules and how to play PRV and Volo. They watched the PRV and Volo precision shooting event and cheered the athletes on. It was a wonderful day!



Volo demonstration featuring Benji Tosi,
an International player from San Francisco Aquatic
Bocce Club.



Kids pointing game.

Giovanni Napoli demonstrating precision
Volo shooting with Benji Tosi.



Happy winner of a new set of bocce balls.



Lucky winners of some of the raffle prizes

All in all it was a great way to share a beautiful day of California weather with Bocce friends and family, old and new. To see the young ones' enthusiasm as they participated in the game we love and want to share. To watch their elders pick up the balls after watching their children or grandchildren play, and then begin to play themselves, is a testament to how addictive this sport is.

[Ken Gorny](#) and [Alan Knox](#) contributed to this article

MIDWESTERN SECTOR



PALAZZO di BOCCE
BOCCE
INVITATIONAL



INTERNATIONAL BOCCE INVITATIONAL **Thursday, July 21 to Saturday, July 23, 2022**

[Palazzo di Bocce](#) is hosting a bocce tournament like no other. International Rules, multiple countries and the Best of the Best Bocce athletes in the world!

The event is offering a chance for spectators to see how the game is authentically played. The sport of bocce is special on many fronts; any age can play, low risk of injury, mental exercise entertainment, inexpensive and allows a team of individuals to strive for excellence.

The tournament will take place Thursday, July 21st - Saturday, July 23rd. We are encouraging everyone to bring family and friends, young or old to cheer for Palazzo

players Jason and Jose who will represent Team USA. Jason and Jose have been and will continue practicing intensely because they want to win 1st place for themselves, for Palazzo di Bocce, for Lake Orion, Oakland County and for the USA!

[Visit our website](#)

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Annette @ directorsofbocce@palazzodibocce.com or (586) 665-7050

Upcoming Events in the Midwest

8th Annual Gialde Bocce Tournament (2022) at the American Sons of Columbus in Kansas City, MO on August 12 – 14. Contact John Liberto for information. Proceeds benefit Boy Scouts of America Troop 80. 816-483-7201 or J_Liberto@yahoo.com

The Annual Aldo Della Croce Memorial Tournament will be held on November 4 – 6, 2022 in St. Louis at the Italia America Bocce Club. Contact Robert for details. 314-477-0154

Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City will hold regional events this year for the Champions Singles Tournament organized by the Bocce Bros in June 2023 in Ohio.

EASTERN SECTOR

NEW HYDE PARK BOCCE CLUB Established 2020

It was less than two years ago that a few of us decided to visit the bocce court at a local neighborhood park. We shared this with some of our friends and before you know it we had almost two dozen bocce players as well as new acquaintances.

Some of us wanted to move on to compete, as the popularity of the sport was rising. We were fortunate enough to participate in the Las Vegas Tournament and discovered the joy and camaraderie we experienced. This first official tournament taught us many things about the game. As of the writing of this article we are having a brand-new bocce court built for us in our neighborhood park. We have also communicated with some of our surrounding towns and their Bocce clubs. We are all experiencing a visit to an old game that has rekindled so much fun and created several new friendships.



Joe Tavernese, John Nicastro,
Frank Cardamone and Vincenzo Crimeni

[Joe Tavernese](#) contributed to this



2022 BOCCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
June 20 - 26, 2022
Methuen Sons of Italy Lodge, Methuen, MA



The 2022 US Bocce National Championships will be held in Boston this year, the 3rd time in 8 years. Technically, the Methuen Sons of Italy Lodge 902, the host facility, is located in Methuen, MA, 30 miles north of Boston. There will be 9 tournaments held over 7 days, with an estimated 140 players who will play in multiple events! Winners of some events will qualify to represent the USA in Turkey in the fall in the 2022 World Championships.

The lodge membership is excited to have you all visit us again for a week of competition and camaraderie, and of course fabulous food. If you are not on a team, but would like to play, we will do our best to match you with others. Lastly, we will need referees to help with games, so when you have a day off or a few hours without a game, please consider volunteering to referee.

Joe Quartarone, contributed to this article
USBF VP, East Coast



Please contact Joe Quartarone, Tournament Director, if you have questions at 978-204-3663, or if you want tips for places to visit outside of Bocce.

Register Today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Methuen Sons of Italy are looking for volunteers for the National Championships. If any of you have participated in our last national tournament, we hope you will join our staff; your expertise is particularly important.

We have begun meetings on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM and hope you will join us. Any questions, please contact: Armand Buonanno, our President at 978-314-5097 or Pio Frittitta our Orator at 978-502-8469.

East Coast Nationals Players from Vermont to Florida are getting ready for Nationals

Members from Key West and Cape Coral, Florida will be heading north to Boston for the 2022 US Bocce Nationals, and Global Bocce which is a USBF member club, will most likely be sending a Miami team. Several Northeast USBF members from New England and NY are already registered for the Nationals, including those on teams hailing from other member clubs including American Bocce Club, New Hyde Park Bocci Club and Babylon Bocce Club. Methuen will have roughly 30 people playing in the Nationals and many are participating in a Punto Raffa Volo Player and Referee training course led Joe Quartarone, Vince Tersigni, Ron Demers and Brad Thayer, in addition to other scheduled team practices.



Methuen Annual Bocce Scholarship Tournament

The Methuen Sons of Italy is a non-profit organization that not only promotes Italian culture, but also does many things

for the local community. One of the ways Lodge 902 supports the community is by giving cash scholarships to college bound high school students. In April 2022, the **Annual Bocce Scholarship Tournament** was held and directly raised \$2250.



That money was combined with other money raised and in late May, (5) \$1000 scholarships will be awarded in a special ceremony. Pio Frittitta, a lodge officer and Community Center Trust chairperson, told me that over 10 years, approximately 50 scholarships have been given out totaling \$50,000. This year's tournament winners are: (left to right) Frank Napolitano, Dottie Crisa, Marsha Kinneer and Bob Mele.

Also in April 2022, Methuen hosted its 2nd **Women's Only Tournament**. For these events, ladies with advanced skills are randomly partnered with those with more novice skills. According to Gina Neve, Lodge VP and tournament organizer, tells me that the random draw is a nice way for the local women to meet new friends, even out the playing field and generate interest in new lodge membership.



1st Place Winners: Marsha Kinneer, Lorraine Delandy, Karen MacLean and Susan Dunlevy.



2nd Place Winners: Sheila Rozumek, Kathy Moreschi, Sandra Pappalardo & Janice Abate.

Guy DeSantis, East Coast USBF President and leader of Yonkers/Mt. Vernon Bocce Club, is one of the organizers of the popular Las Vegas Open Bocce Tournament. With his extreme passion for bocce and deep knowledge of the game, he and his partners hosted 65 teams this past March in another successful Las Vegas event at the South Pointe Resort. One reason people like to play in this event is because the prize money is spread out over 20+ teams. Not only do several teams win cash prizes in the winners bracket from which the tournament champion is determined, there is a second chance bracket that also pays out to some teams. If you are interested in participating next spring, please reach out to Guy by email at yonkersbocce@aol.com.

American Bocce Club has the largest number of USBF individual members out of all clubs in the nation. Peter Rabito is the driving force behind this organization and runs a 7 week city-wide bocce introduction program that teaches the history of bocce as well as techniques and strategy. They are in their 3rd week and soon the newbies will begin to also play games using the skills they are learning.

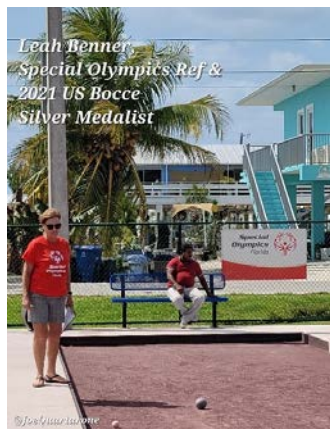
Let's give a warm welcome to the **Babylon Bocce Club** that has officially signed up as a USBF member club. After organizing less than a year ago, Santo Crocco (President) and Angelo LaMorte (VP) tell me they now have 68 members and some are also USBF

individual members who will be playing in the 2022 Nationals.

Asheville Bocce Club, a USBF member club from NC, now has grown to over 220 members. "We are fun recreational league, playing mostly at locations where food and drinks are available." There may be some regional tournaments later in 2022, but "mainly our members play for the fun of the game," says David Pope, the founder. On the right is a photo of the courts they play on at [Hi Wire Brewing](#) in the Asheville area.



Special Olympics Florida hosted its Area 9 Bocce Games in Big Pine Key on April 9, 2022 on courts right by the water where the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico meet. Some players of the 20 competing teams from Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties will be headed to the Florida Special Olympics State Games during the 3rd weekend of May 2022.



US Bocce Nationals silver medal winner, Leah Benner, and her husband, Wayne, were volunteer referees. I was there cheering on all the teams, especially the Miami Panthers team that I help instruct. Coach Eddy (and player), Hope and Mandy do a wonderful job as the main coaches with the team.



Upcoming Events in the Eastern Sector

Delaware High Stakes Bocce Tournament is organized by Global Bocce at St. Anthony's in New Castle, Delaware on August 5 – 6, 2022. A social division will also be available to participate in. Call Joe Quartarone at 978-204-3663 for details and registration forms. As of this week, a new roof was installed over renovated court #3. All the Har-Tru courts are now under cover. In its inaugural 2021 tournament, 12 teams competed (from 10 states) and this year they are planning for 16 or more. (Depending on the number of teams, it may only be held on Saturday 8/6.)

2022 Friends of Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley is holding its annual tournament at the Methuen Sons of Italy on May 14, 2022. \$160 / 4 person team includes lunch. Contact Eileen or Larry Giordano. 978-771-2150

2022 4th Annual Frank Mastrocola Bocce Tournament will be held at the Methuen Sons Of Italy on June 11, 2022. Please call 781-789-2121 to participate or sponsor the event.

[Joe Quartarone](#) contributed to the Eastern Sector article



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