

## Bocce Ball

### Awards Banquet Lights up Hacienda

By Jennifer Wake



Ron Lopes, Moraga

Photo Andy Scheck

**M**ore than 60 of the 120 Moraga Bocce Club players from throughout Lamorinda gathered at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga last week to celebrate the winners of the Bocce Ball Championship Play-offs and do what they do best: Have fun.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Dom Sidari – the person responsible for bringing bocce ball to the Commons and bringing players to the courts. When he stood up to make a few remarks, the crowd erupted with cheers of, “Hip, hip, hurray!”

“The bocce ball courts wouldn’t have happened – at least for many, many years – if not for Dom,” said Nancy Richardson, the former Town of Moraga Parks and Recreation Director who helped Dom get approval for the courts over ten years ago. “Dom came into my office and said, ‘I want a bocce ball court,’ and I said, ‘Go for it.’”

And go for it, he did.

Dom traveled to Oakland for the best materials after researching some of the top courts in the area, such as the courts located in Martinez. “He got real oyster shell for the base of the court; only the best of the best,” player Jeff Schwartz said.

For Dom’s wife, Jean, the endeavor has been a time-consuming one, but she says he loves it. “It takes a lot of time,” she said. “A lot of people have asked to help and he says, ‘No. I’ll take care of it.’”

“Then I say: What about the house?” she added with a chuckle.

Many of the players came to the sport simply from knowing Dom. Leslie Schreiner has been playing for the past four years after Dom invited her out to play. Other players now say she’s “a natural.”

“I love it!” she said. “Bowling? Forget it. I like the people we play with and the team.”

John April of Orinda explained bocce ball is not just an old guys’ game. “Leslie’s the reason we don’t have a trophy,” he said, laughing. This was his first year playing, and April said it was frustrating at times, but he plans to keep at it.

“I’ll get better,” he said.

As for the first-place winners of the tournament, the Frank Glowatch Team received awards for their achievement, but in keeping with the relaxed atmosphere of the evening, only first names were engraved on the trophies: Phil, Dug, Paula, Frank, Jim, Darcy and Wayne.

“We have great camaraderie,” April said. “It’s a great way to build relationships in the neighborhood.”

The next goal for Dom? Two more courts at the Commons.



Dom Sidari and his wife Jean take pleasure in watching team play