

Balmy Beach Lawn Bowling Club

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

October 15, 2023 | 11:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Tom Marley

Board Members

Tom Marley, President | Marko Thompson, Vice President | Jeff Maple, Treasurer (absent) |
Dennis Bockus, OLBA Rep | Carl Trinier, Immediate Past President (absent) | Victoria Robinson, Secretary

Welcome and President's Message

- Tom welcomed the members and introduced the board members.
- There was a moment of silence for Joe Green, Doreen Creaney and Dahla MacKenna, who passed away in 2023.
- Membership 2023 Season:
 - We have 188 members this year, which is the same as last year; this is an indication of a healthy club.
 - I am not sure where we rank with respect to the size of the membership this year, but last year we were second provincially (behind Cosburn) and fourth in the country.
- Volunteers:
 - We have many volunteers within the club but a special mention goes out to those who have given of their time to make the bowling experience seamless and enjoyable for the rest of us.

Weekly Bowling and Tournaments:

- Elaine MacSween & Dave Smith – Monday Mixed League
- Ken McAulay – Tuesday Men's League
- Rachel Jones – Tuesday Skills and Drills
- George Apap, Rob Hunter & Andrew Moore - Wednesday Night League
- Charlene Rathgeb – 5 Bees Women's League
- Vicki-Jo Bowden – Thursday Social Bowling
- Alice Iacurci, Anthony Tacoma & Denis and Bonnie Morrice – Friday Aussie Pairs
- Karen Marley – Coordinator and Draw Master for Jitneys
- Dennis Bockus – Coordinator and Draw Master for OLBA sanctioned tournaments

Fundraising:

- Jo Bradley & Cathy Moxey – Corporate Events (plus thanks to the many who came out to help with these events, making them a fun and enjoyable experience for the participants)
- Dennis Bockus & Victoria Robinson – Horseshoe Tournament
- Karen & Tom Marley – Euchre
- Susan Dickison & Cathy Moxey – Grant Proposal Applications; applied for 3; successful with New Horizons Grant of \$24,850

Additional thanks go to:

- Marjorie Walsh and her crew for keeping the gardens in such wonderful shape
- Mary Opper, Vicki-Jo and those who helped in the kitchen to keep us all fed and watered throughout the season

And to everyone who has helped in even the smallest way to make this a successful year, THANK YOU.

I would also like to thank Lisa Lamb and the front office staff, Erin, Tanya and Peter for their assistance and support for our section throughout the season.

Greens

Thanks to Will for his work on the greens.

The greens were again well used this season given the number of players and leagues we have, so they took a bit of a beating.

Zander Sod came in the Spring, did some soil improvement and laid down new sod on the lower green. Over the winter we will be investigating other processes and supplements to enhance the quality of both greens.

District and Provincial Championships

The club had good representation this season at the district and provincial level competitions.

Our Ladies Trebles team of Andrea Hampton, Mari-Lynn Wikant and Rachel Jones won GOLD at the Provincials.

As well, the following members competed in Provincial championships:

- Men's Triples – Bert Harvey & Meno Jose
- Novice Women's Singles – Mari-Lynn Wikant
- Women's Senior Triples – Sandy Ford, Joan Beal & Bonnie Morrice
- Men's Senior Triples – Mike Healey & Dana Davidson
- Mixed Pairs – Amber Caterer-Walsh & Mike Healey

Short Mat Bowling

Short Mat Bowling takes place on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00pm in the main hall of the BBC. Arrive at 6.40 for the 7.00pm start. There is no fee and no commitment required for this weekly event; just show up and have fun!

Euchre

Sunday euchre will start on Sunday, November 5th at 11:30 for a noon start. Euchre is held monthly in November and January through April. This is a fund raiser for lawn bowling, so come out for some fun and an escape from the cold weather. Euchre is open to all BBC members and guests.

Approval of Minutes

- Spring 2023 Meeting
 - Al Quance approved; Colleen Clarke seconded

Presented by Victoria on behalf of the Executive:

Our Treasurer, Jeff Maple, sends his regrets as he is away on a vacation that could not be rescheduled. I will present the financial statement (attached) for the executive and any questions will be sent to Jeff for response when he returns at the end of the month. The questions and answers will also be included in the minutes of the AGM.

There is no comparative to last year because the fiscal year end for Lawn Bowling at the time the statements were prepared was February 28. This is changing effective immediately. All sections are required to recast their financial reports to reflect a fiscal year end of October 31, to align with the main club. Jeff will handle this when he returns.

As well, effective January 1, 2023 a new contract was signed with the greenskeeper, Will, for the next two years. Under the previous contract Will was responsible for the purchase of all greens supplies (fertilizer, seed, sand etc.). The new contract moves those costs out of the contract and the LBC pays for them directly.

Membership numbers remained steady from 2022 at 188 members, and dues, bowls and locker rentals reflect this.

Corporate events revenue increased \$2,400 this year due to the popularity of the venue, a lot of return customers, and a lot of work by Cathy Moxey, Jo Bradley and their many volunteers. Jitney and tournament net revenues also increased by almost \$2,900 due increased participation over last year. Fundraising remained steady.

On the Expense front, Greens Maintenance increased by about \$9,000 over last year as a result of the rejuvenation of the lower green (\$7,000) and the payment of costs previously paid under the greenskeeper contract. Student Wages, previously covered by a Summer Student Grant, increased LBC expenses by \$6,700. This represents 75% of the total wages and benefits paid, with 25% covered by the BBC. Equipment expense reflects the cost of the lawn mower lease. All other expenses remained stable.

Overall, Expenses exceeded Revenues by \$2,122 in the 8 months being reported.

If you have any questions, please email info@balmybeachlawnbowling.com and I will forward your emails to Jeff when he returns.

Grants:

The club received two grants this year. \$5,000 was awarded by the Webster Fund and 6 sets of bowls and carriers were acquired. A New Horizons Grant of \$24,850 was also received. The funds were used for a verticutting machine, 16 bowls rakes, 16 sets of bowls and carriers, metal shelving for the new bowls, and a new equipment shed, which will be installed shortly.

Cathy Moxey and Susan Dickison (who moved to BC early in the season) put a lot of time and effort into the grant applications. In addition to the Webster Fund and New Horizons, they submitted applications for a Trillium Capital Grant (\$150,000) and to the Inclusive Communities Grants Program (\$54,050), both for major clubhouse improvements. Unfortunately neither application was approved.

Other:

- A member asked why we have to pay OLBA fees. The OLBA fees cover insurance for the lawn bowling section; they enable the club to host OLBA tournaments which raise funds for the club. As an OLBA member, one is entitled to play in OLBA tournaments and championships. These provide opportunities to improve skills by expanding one's range of experience through exposure to other clubs and their members. As well, OLBA offers coaching and umpire training and certification to its members.

A member questioned dating the financial statements as of October 31 when the month hasn't ended. This will be changed.

Convenors'/Coordinators' Reports

Tournaments – Dennis Bockus

- OLBA tournaments hosted by BBC LBC were back to our full complement of 6, reflecting a return to pre-COVID participation levels; 2 of the tournaments reached maximum capacity.
- The sponsors of our OLBA tournaments are Joan Beal Real Estate, The Foot Guy (David Allison), Baird MacGregor Insurance, Scott Howe Wealth Management, and Centrum Financial Services.
- The BBC portion of the Cosburn/BBLBC Challenge is sponsored by Wintergreen Indoor Lawn Bowling Club.
- Al Quance sponsored the 3rd annual Coach Quance Classic club tournament.
- Marko Thompson sponsored a new club tournament for novices only
- Both Al and Marko have confirmed their support for these very popular tournaments in 2024.
- There were two challenges with Kew Beach, the traditional men's challenge and the newly created mixed challenge. This year, we won both competitions.
- The Cosburn/BBLBC Combo 4s tournament returned this year. First prize went to the team of Marko Thompson, Erin Chambers, Rob Chambers, and Elaine MacSween.
- BBC hosted two Division qualifiers as well. Thanks to Erin Chambers for managing those events.
- We would like to thank the people who volunteer to make the tournaments a success. Will puts in extra time to prepare the greens. Mary and her helpers put in a whole day providing snacks and drinks. Tournaments run on raisin bread.
- A member asked if there is a specified number of ends required for an OLBA tournament; if games can be shared among players; and if OLBA members from other clubs can play in non-OLBA sanctioned tournaments.
 - The number of ends is not specified, but many tournament players would not be interested in a shortened format because they use the events as practice for district and provincial qualifiers, which have a 3 game, 12 ends per game format.
 - Tournaments generate revenue for the club and a shortened format would likely reduce the number of registrations
 - Some OLBA tournaments hosted by other clubs only have 2 games, not 3
 - It is not possible to share games in OLBA tournaments as some teams could use that option to create a competitive edge.
 - It was noted that our in-house tournaments and jitneys offer both shortened games (3 6-end games) and the opportunity to share a position on a team
 - OLBA members from other clubs can play in our in-house tournaments as a guest if there is space available on the day of the event.

Corporate Events – Jo Bradley

- The team of Cathy Moxey and Jo Bradley coordinated 6 events this summer, ranging from 12 participants to 100+, generating revenue of \$8,500 and the donation by Tricon of 2 sets of bowls whose value was \$1,400.
- Thank you to the 49+ volunteers who made the corporate events possible; without you it wouldn't be possible.
- A special thank you to volunteers for overcoming the obstacles this year, which included rain, heat and smoke; air quality forced Pinnacle Fund Services off the greens and onto the short mats in the hall.
- A special shout out to Dave Smith and Elaine MacSween for their support in providing instruction and organizing players into teams, to Karen Marley who sorted all the scrambled bowls and carriers into their proper place after the events, and to Rita D'Ortenzio and Ron Robinson for their photography skills.
- Finally, thank you to Will for getting the greens up and ready for back-to-back days of 100 person events.
- Cathy plans to continue in her role as liaison between the client, the main club and the lawn bowling club.
- After 2 years, Jo is stepping away from the volunteer coordinator role. She recommends it to anyone who has boundless enthusiasm, superior powers of persuasion, and coordination skills. It is a wonderful way to meet club members!

Skills and Drills – Rachel Jones

Rachel was unable to attend and Dave Smith read the following message:

Skills and Drills was a great success this season. We regularly had around 20 bowlers turning up, and sometimes used every open lane on both greens to accommodate everyone. All bowlers came with an empty cup, willing to learn and fill up.

Like all fun things in life, it was a team effort:

- Gratitude to all the coaches who turned up to assist coaching the newbies.
- Thanks to the many seasoned bowlers who stepped up to hang out, offer great advice, help new bowlers, and be spotters for the singles games.
- Thanks to Erin Chambers, who gave us 2 weeks of measuring, etiquette and head-reading training sessions.
- Thanks to Ken McAulay, who made the score boards as a treat for the brave bowlers who were ready to make the leap, and play in the singles game night.
- A special big big thank you to Elaine MacSween, who turned up almost every single week, to assist with coaching.

I plan to train to become a club coach in time for next years' skills and drills. See you all on the greens in 2024.

Theatricks After School Program – Dayle Snider

Dayle was unable to attend and Tom read the following message:

- In the spring and fall for a few years, children from an after-school programme run by Theatricks Theatre Co. 4 Kids have come to our club one afternoon a week for an hour to learn and play lawn bowling. We hosted the kids in June and September this year. Many thanks to all those volunteers who gave their time to

facilitate these sessions. The kids really have fun and I understand on the last day they were given treats making it even more special. Thanks to Victoria and Alice for coordinating when I was unable to and to Rita who took pictures on the last day and posted them on FaceBook.

- Although this is not a money-making venture for the club, it is an example of how our club gives back to the community and this has been recognized by the Executive of the Main Club.

Tom expressed his support, noting that it demonstrates our club's multigenerational access and encourages youth bowling, previously championed by Al.

Mixed League – Elaine MacSween and David Smith

- This season there were 90 bowlers (the greatest number ever), necessitating a split schedule with 7 rinks in use in the morning and 8 in the afternoon.
- The team of Elaine MacSween, David Molyneux and Beth Scratch won the Joe Green trophy.
- Weekly fundraising was very successful.
- A member asked if consideration would be given to splitting the season into two sessions of two months each, the format followed by the Wednesday Night League. Elaine and Dave will respond.

Men's League – Ken McAulay

A good year for the men's league with 60+ players, largest in the past 10 years. We play a round robin format which means all teams plays each other, which requires 19 weeks of play starting in late May. No rainouts during this season; we must be living right.

We play for the Wheler Cup, donated by Dr. Wheler a local physician and BBC lawn bowler. The winners this year are John Graziano, Scotty Tait, and Richard Zimmerman. They got out to a lead early in the season and no one could catch them.

Our season ends with a tournament called Championship Day. The players make up 5 groups with 4 teams to a group, we play 3 - 6 end games. This year it was held October 10. The weather cooperated we played for cash prizes and followed with a banquet at the club. I will add the pictures of the winners to the bowling website.

The banquet, prize money, the polo shirts for the winners of the Wheler cup and any other expenses are paid for by the league fee and our weekly share the wealth draw. The share the wealth draw was introduced 10 years ago by Al Quance, and is a great idea, it allows us to maintain a low league fee and upgrade everything we offer the members, the banquet, polo shirts, prize money etc. I believe the draw is now being offered in the Mixed League.

We try and spend all the money we generate annually on our members. This year we may have some money left over. With the Executive's agreement we will donate any money remaining in our account to a local food bank.

We welcome new bowlers in 2024.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. see you next May.

Wednesday Night League – George Apap, Bob Dawson & Andrew Moore

- We had a total of 33 teams participating this year (18 in the spring and 15 in the summer).
- The operations moved to 100% online, including registration, payment, team lists, and standing.
- A registration fee allowed us to provide prizes and host an evening at the end of each session with meals and drinks.
- Our spring winners - “The Oldies” (Bert Harvey, Kim McNulty, Perry D’Ortenzio/Neil Preece)
- Our summer winners - “Bowled and Beautiful” (Alice Iacurci, Dennis Morrice, Bonnie Morrice)
- We had our final play down on Oct 4, where our session winners played down. “The Oldies” emerged victorious, claiming the league championship

Thursday 5 Bees – Charlene Rathgeb

- There were 8 trebles teams and an equal number of spares this year.
- The 2023 winner of the Diane Carreau Memorial trophy was the team of Amber Caterer-Walsh, Corinne Santorini and Linda Gilling. Thank you to Al Quance for donating the trophy.
- Any woman who wants to bowl is welcome, and shared roles (two people playing one role) allows players with reduced mobility or stamina to participate. The league requires no fee join.
- Thank you to Will and his crew for setting up the greens for us.

Thursday Night Social Bowling – Vicki Jo Bowden

- Tom thanked Vicki Jo for stepping up to host Thursday night bowling.
- Participation was low for a number of reasons, and the executive will present different game format ideas for consideration by the members at the Spring Meeting.
- If there is no interest then the evening will be changed to Open Bowling.

Aussie Pairs – Anthony Tacoma, Alice Iacurci and Denis Morrice

- Friday afternoon was very popular this year, with 8 to 10 rinks in use each week.
- The format of the game allows players to bowl 4 bowls per end and to alternate as Lead and Skip; you pack a lot of bowling into 2 hours, and gain experience in a role you may not play in other leagues.
- There is no fee to pay, and players set up and put away the equipment used.

Grounds Beautification – Marjorie Walsh

Marjorie was unable to attend and Tom read the following message:

I would like to thank everyone who helped out in the gardens this year, including Bonnie, Ron, George and Vicki Jo. The window boxes were chosen by Jo and Cathleen and looked beautiful. Nice job ladies! Parry and Stew volunteered to trim the shrubs and I welcomed their expertise in accomplishing this task. Also, I want to thank Will who quietly helps out as needed.

Newcomers to the gardens are a yellow rose and a lilac bush. I hope you have enjoyed the blooms and look forward to working with everyone next year. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy fall and winter.

Keep an eye out for some spring surprises in the gardens - fingers crossed. It's always a battle with those pesky squirrels!

Food and Supplies – Mary Oppen

- Thank you to Vicki Jo for her help all season, and to everyone else who helped out at the events.
- I am stepping down, but next year Vicki Jo will continue to coordinate the kitchen activities and Angie Williams has volunteered to do all the shopping. Thank you both.
- The words of wisdom I am passing on for next year are
 - Clean your own dishes (mugs).
 - Don't use the food in the fridge unless you put it there.
 - Use a water bottle.

Other Business/Questions

Tom and Victoria ran unopposed for the positions of President and Secretary respectively. Both were acclaimed for a second two year term.

A member asked if it is possible to put in processes to encourage knowledge transfer from experienced bowlers to novices during the season. The following methods currently available were noted by the executive:

- Pre-season coaching for Mixed League newbies by Elaine and Dave
- Tuesday Night Skills and Drills
- Bowls Canada Handbook (copies available in the clubhouse)
- Rules and Etiquette document distributed to all members this past season

It was noted that not all players appreciate feedback that could be interpreted as criticism.

Fall Clean Up

Leaf raking will be scheduled once the leaves are off the trees, normally late in November. Generally two sessions are scheduled. An email will be sent requesting volunteers.

Adjournment

Al Quance moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mark Thompson.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.