

Balmy Beach Lawn Bowling Club

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

November 17, 2024 | 11:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Jeff Maple for Tom Marley

Board Members

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

Welcome and President's Message

- Jeff welcomed the members and introduced the board members.
- There was a moment of silence for Des Gilling and Bob Fullerton, who passed away over the summer.

The following are Tom's comments, read by Jeff:

Welcome everyone to the 2024 AGM. My apologies for not being here but COVID unfortunately has other plans for me.

I want to thank the current board for all the work they have done over the past year. Jeff has kindly decided to continue as Treasurer for another term while Marko has decided to step away. Marko is replaced as VP by Jackie Blakeley so congratulations Jack and welcome on board.

- Membership 2024 Season:
 - We grew from 188 members last year to 204 this year.
 - While many clubs struggle to attract new members and most are reporting retention levels of around 50%, we continue to grow. This is a testament to the hard work put in by all the volunteers who make this club a success. Thank you.
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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
- Alice Iacurci, Anthony Tacoma – Friday Aussie Pairs
- Carl Trinier – Short Mat Bowling
- Karen Marley – Club Jitneys
- Dennis Bockus – OLBA sanctioned tournaments

Fundraising:

- Cathleen Gates & 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)
- Cathy Moxey & Mari-Lynn Wikant – Grant Proposal Applications

Additional thanks go to:

- Marjorie Walsh and helpers for keeping the gardens in such wonderful shape and enhancing our bowling experience
- Vicki-Jo Bowden & Angie Williams and those who helped in the kitchen keeping us all well fed and hydrated throughout the season
- Rita D’Ortenzio who photographed every notable moment of 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 year.

If I have forgotten to thank anyone specifically, I apologize and use the COVID fog and thumping headache as an excuse.

Greens

Thanks to Will for his work on the greens and thanks to those who stepped up to help him when our student David returned to university.

The greens were again well used this season given the number of players and leagues we have and have survived remarkably well.

We have a company coming in on Tuesday morning to spike aerate the greens.

We will continue to investigate processes and supplements to enhance the quality of both greens and with a view to leveling the greens in the future.

District and Provincial Championships

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

Our Seniors team of Meno Jose and Mike Healey won the districts and went on to win Silver at the Provincials.

Catherine Boyd won the ladies district novice singles and competed at the provincials.

Mark Pearson won the district Mixed Pairs with Lynn Frost, a player from another club. They went on to win Silver at the Provincials. Mark also won Bronze at the Provincial Indoor Singles.

Under OLBA rules, Mark was unable to compete in any OLBA Novice tournaments this year because in 2023 he won the district Men’s novice singles and went on to win Gold at the provincials, these when he represented another club that shall remain forever nameless;-).

Congratulations to all those who won and those who competed. It is my opinion given the level of interest of competition and especially practice amongst some of our new bowlers that we will continue to see positive results at district, provincial and hopefully once again national level.

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 started this month and will continue monthly until April. Euchre is held on the first Sunday of each month. Show up at 11.30 for a 12.00 o'clock start. This is a fund raiser for lawn bowling, so come out and play. We currently ask for a \$10 'donation' to play.

A member asked for clarification regarding the number of guests someone can bring to euchre. In the past she brought 5 but the online registration limits the number to 4.

Erin explained that the online system is set to 4 guests, but the office staff can override this if requested by a member.

Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the Spring 2024 meeting was requested.

Mike Healey moved to approve the minutes; Lynne Penberthy-Ritchie seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Net income from lawn bowling activities was up substantially from 2023 and the 2024 budget primarily due to savings generated when Kinmond announced at the Spring Meeting that the club would take over 100% of the costs of the Greenskeeper's contract and the costs of the summer student. These savings amounted to approximately \$15,000. Some of these savings were offset from spending on chemicals and fertilizer to maintain the greens.

Total net income from lawn bowling received a boost due to the fantastic effort of Cathy Moxey for almost doubling last year's revenue from Corporate Events. We hosted 13 events this year vs 5 last year resulting in \$15,000 of income or \$6,700 more than 2023. Well done, Cathy. In addition, a shout out to Cathleen and our many volunteers that come out to assist in making this day a very enjoyable experience for the participants and so successful for the section and the club.

The boost in registration numbers, along with financial support from the club and corporate events, have resulted in a cash surplus of \$40,000. The executive has started looking at further areas of improvement to the greens and will be discussing these with the main club in the future.

Approval of the 2023/24 Financial Reports was requested.

Ron Robinson moved to approve the financial reports; Colleen Clarke seconded the motion.

Convenors'/Coordinators' Reports

Tournaments – Dennis Bockus

We had 6 OLBA tournaments, 2 in-house tournaments, and 3 competitions against other clubs.

The OLBA tournaments raised \$3,450 for the club. We gave away more than that in prize money.

Special thanks to Will and Vicki Jo, who did a lot of extra work to support the tournaments, and to Kim, who was captain of the Balmy team for the Beaches challenge. Due to 2 rain outs at Kew, Kim coordinated teams 3 times for the one event.

Thanks also to the sponsors of the OLBA Tournaments - Joan Beal Real Estate, The Foot Guy (David Allison), Baird MacGregor Insurance, Scott Howe Wealth Management, Centrum Financial Services (Rick Honeyford) and Wintergreen Indoor Lawn Bowling Club (John Adams), which sponsors the BBC portion of the Cosburn/BBLBC Challenge. And thanks to Al Quance and Marko Thompson for sponsoring two of our in-club tournaments.

OLBA Tournaments:

Friday, July 5, Baird McGregor Open Pairs, 2-bowl

Sunday, July 13, 14, Cosburn/BBLBC Combo Fours (1 must be a novice)

Friday, July 19, Scott Howe Mixed Trebles, 2-bowl

Thursday, August 1, The Foot Guy Mixed Pairs

Saturday, August 17, The Honey Cup Mixed Trebles

Sunday, September 15, Joan Beal Open Pairs, 1 novice (new date)

Club Tournaments – only open to Balmy members:

Coach Quance Classic June 1

Thompson Novice Tournament August 16

Beaches Challenge July 17 (Balmy); August 23 (Kew)

Boardwalk Challenge Sept. 4 (Kew); Sept. 11 (Balmy)

RCYC Tournament July 21 (Balmy)

It is likely that the format of the Cosburn/BBLBC Combo Fours will be changed for 2025 at Cosburn's request. Their preference would be a one-day tournament with hosting alternating annually between the two clubs. This will require a change to the games format, which will be discussed over the winter.

A member asked about changes proposed by Bowls Canada for the "5-A-Side" championship.

For those who have entered or are considering entering the OLBA District and or Provincial Championships, Erin reported that the Championships are currently being reviewed, and will be distributed to the District Chairs during the week of November 25th. There is a survey from Bowls Canada being circulated regarding the 5-A-Side format. The OLBA is also considering adding an Open Pairs and Open Singles Provincial Championships.

Corporate Events – Cathy Moxey and Cathleen Gates

In the past season we hosted 14 events and raised \$15,190 for the LBC. Thanks go out to everyone who helped make this possible – the volunteers on the greens, the staff of the BBC, Dave for organizing (and reorganizing) score cards, Karen for setting up the bowls (and reshelving them), Vicki Jo and Angie for snacks and beverages, and Rita for capturing the events on camera.

Erin suggested that a plan/schedule for the events be created for the summer so that the main club can staff effectively. Cathy agreed and asked that the club share their calendar of events with her at the beginning of the season.

Erin suggested contacting repeat companies in January to determine interest for 2025. Cathy did this for 2024 and will again, but it seemed too early for most companies to commit.

The challenge for the club is juggling events for our section but also all sections plus all the other summer events that the club hosts. They would love to have pre-planned dates from us, in a perfect world.

When we get a request for bowl with lunch/drinks at the main club for over 20 people it's a struggle to find a date that works for the club. Although we may be able to host the same number of events as we did this year, there is a lot of back and forth organizing.

To summarize, the takeaway from this is a new process in which, I will meet with Lisa/Erin early in the season to get a club preplanned calendar of their events so that lawn bowling can work around those dates. Hopefully that cuts down on the "juggling".

Comments from Cathleen (read by Carl in her absence):

To the 65 volunteers who generously gave of their time for corporate events from June 5th to September 4th a great big thank you for answering the call when asked. These 65 members turned out for 14 events and welcomed 539 guests, several who had never bowled before.

What great teamwork, from Vicki-Jo and Angie having the coffee ready for our arrival, Karen organizing the bowls, Dave giving new bowlers an overview of how to bowl, and those on duty that day setting up the greens and coaching the teams, thank you. You certainly made my job easier.

Feedback from the participants about the volunteers from every event was nothing less than excellent.

Skills and Drills – Rachel Jones

Once again we had a great turnout at the Skills and Drills nights.

We had Aero bowls attend to demo their products one night, and under umpire Erin Chamber's instruction, an Etiquette workshop and a Measuring workshop.

Thanks to coaches Elaine McSween, Mike Healey, Mary-Lou Richards and umpire Erin Chambers, as well as Mari-Lynn Wikant, who despite a leg cast, became the lawn bowling Walmart greeter, relaying the drill of the day to new bowlers, freeing up the coaches and helpers to do the teaching.

A big thanks to those from the Tuesday men's league, who when asked, turned up en masse in the early days to help teach new bowlers the basics (despite being pooped from a hot afternoon of bowling and drinking). Also, thanks to my partner in crime, Jan, who helped out with setting up and putting away the equipment most evenings. Finally, thanks to Ken McAulay, who made the scoreboards that were distributed to new bowlers.

Next year I'd like to emphasize more going to the deck to talk and have a drink after the sessions, so new bowlers get the chance to socialize together. This may entail having the sessions run from 5:30-7:30 instead of 6-8. I just completed the classroom part of the OLBA club coaching program last month, and they also identified that socializing after a game is an important part of retaining new members.

A question was raised regarding a lack of response from Aero Bowls after the demo night. Rachel will follow up.

Rachel also advised that there is now no Henselite rep in Ontario.

Theatrics After School Program – Dayle Snider

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

During the months of June and September for the last few years, we have offered an hour of lawn bowling a week to roughly 2 dozen community kids from the 'after school programme' operated by the Theatricks Theatre Co. 4 Kids. We use the junior lawn bowls that the club has had for many years that were acquired to promote lawn bowling to the younger generation.

It takes about 8 volunteers to run this each week. Many thanks to those who helped out.

The club has also benefited by endorsements from Jeff Gillespie, the head of Theatricks. An important prerequisite for grant applications is providing service to the community, so Jeff's testimonials are supportive.

We look forward to offering the programme again next year and hope to see new faces step up to continue this valuable community service which enhances the presence of the lawn bowling club and the greatest club in The Beach.

Mixed League – Elaine MacSween and David Smith

Elaine was unable to attend, so Dave spoke for the league.

This summer there were 28 teams with 84 bowlers and numerous spares. Brian Wikant, Ken O'Neill and Angie Williams were the 2024 champions.

28 teams are the maximum number possible to play at one time. If registration increases in 2025, we may have to split the schedule between morning and afternoon.

The season ended with the traditional banquet and awarding of prizes. Even with the cancellation of 50/50, we were able to do this because there were funds left over from last year. In the coming season there may have to be an increase in the league registration fee. It is currently \$30 per person and has not been increased in xx years.

Men's League – Ken McAulay

It was a good year for the men's league with 60 players and 5 to 10 spares.

We play a round-robin format, which means all teams must play each other. This requires 19 weeks of play, starting in late May—we experienced one rainy day during this season. Our final bowling day was Oct 8, 2024.

We play for the Wheler Cup, which was donated by Dr. Wheler, a local physician and BBC lawn bowler. This year's winners are Mark Thompson, Jake Blakeley, and Ken O'Neill. During the year, Ray Knight discovered the Men's League Consolation Winners trophy, which has not been awarded since 2000. Joe McNulty, a long-time member of the Balmy Beach Club and bowler, donated it. We have reinstated the trophy, and this year's winners are Mike Healey, Danny Corrie, and Jan Sommerfeld.

Our season ends with a Championship Day tournament, held on October 8. We played for cash prizes and followed with a banquet at the club. The pictures of the winners are posted on the Facebook website.

The league fee pays for the banquet, prize money, polo shirts for the Wheler Cup winners, and any other expenses.

We welcome new bowlers in 2025.

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

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

As we look back on the 2024 Wednesday Night Bowls season, we'd like to thank each and every player for making it such a memorable year. Your participation and enthusiasm brought a wonderful energy to the season, and it was great to see so many familiar faces along with new ones. This year, we had a fantastic turnout with 24 teams competing in the spring session and 21 in the fall.

A special congratulations goes out to our 2024 season champions, "The Bowled and the Beautiful" – Alice Iacurci, Denis Morrice, and Bonnie Morrice. Their dedication and teamwork truly stood out, and we celebrate their achievement.

On behalf of George, Robert and Andrew, thank you again to everyone who joined us this season, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Thursday 5 Bees – Charlene Rathgeb

This year we had 13 teams and 25 (!) spares. It was the first year the league has drafted for teams and it was very successful.

The session started late because many of the players were on a trip to Italy, so the season consisted of 12 games with a bye. In the end a tiebreaker was played between the teams of Amber Caterer-Walsh, Carmel Lundin, and Martha Smith against Marci Doyle, Vicki Jo Bowden and Launnie Garetson. The Diane Carreau cup for 2024 went to Amber, Carmel and Martha. Congratulations, team!

Many thanks to Will and David for greens set up, and thanks to the weather for not raining on us.

Aussie Pairs – Anthony Tacoma, Alice Iacurci, Denis Morrice & Bonnie Morrice

Aussie Pairs had a great season, with approximately 40 bowlers playing each week. It is a drop-in session, and Alice sets up the teams.

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.

Thank you to all the players who came early to set up.

Short Mat Bowling – Carl Trinier

Short mat bowling takes place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm, from October to April. It is a free drop-in event, open to all BBC members. Generally there are 15 to 20 participants. The convenor sets up the teams, and usually 3 games can take place in an evening.

Thanks go to Mike, Scotty and Jules for their help setting up the mats.

Four of our bowlers are going to Virgil (Niagara area) to compete in the National Short Mat Championships in the coming week. Best of luck to Leslie Barrans, Sharon Chalmers, Mike Healey, and Jules Marsen.

Grounds Beautification – Marjorie Walsh

Greetings from the gardens.

I hope the flowers, blooms, and colors put a smile on your face as you enter to play your game.

I want to thank all who helped out this year.

- Ron and Bonnie for coming out and assisting with the Spring cleanup.
- Jo and Cathleen for choosing and getting the window boxes. The impatiens just kept on giving with very little deadheading. They looked lovely and were a great choice.
- Will for setting up the water timer.
- Amos for trimming the shrubs on a regular basis. Very much appreciated.

- I would like to welcome Jan to the gardens. He claims to enjoy weeding (!) as well as other gardening activities.

We have a lovely environment to garden in and I always enjoy the comments from people passing by. The Rose of Sharon usually gets lots of attention and this year the Dappled Willow received some comments as well.

We will just keep working away to try and keep things looking nice.

Until next time ... Marjorie

Food and Supplies – Vicki Jo Bowden & Angie Williams

From a nursing point of view the season went well. We were nourished, hydrated and no one died!

Angie was the driver and managed the finances. I did the shopping and kitchen prep. We supplied the cottage with everything from garbage bags to paper towels.

We supported 2 open houses, 6 jitneys, 10 tournaments, 10 corporate events, and 2 educational events over the season.

We couldn't have done it without the kitchen help of Elaine, Lynn, Karen, Cathleen, Mary, Jo, Rita and Donna (who will be a member of the core team next year). Thank you also to Susan and Marjorie for providing home-baked treats for the events and Neil for the idea of using HeluvaGood Dip.

Acclaimed Executive Members

Jeff ran unopposed for the position of Treasurer and was acclaimed for a second two-year term.

Jack Blakeley was unopposed for the Vice President position and has joined the executive for a two-year term. Jack jokingly thanked the members for voting for him and is looking forward to working with the executive to make improvements where possible.

Other Business/Questions

Jeff reminded members that OLBA membership cards and renewal stickers were eliminated this year by OLBA, although cards were produced for our members this year. The cards that haven't been collected yet by members can be obtained from Jeff.

A member asked what was being done to correct the uneven greens, particularly the slants that occur in the proximity of the ditch boards. Jack offered to create a committee to investigate the possible solutions and their costs and other factors. Interested members should contact him.

The executive committee, with Will, has been investigating solutions and has requested quotes from Zander Sod, who did the sod remediation last spring. Solutions must be affordable and able to be implemented with minimal impact on play.

Fall Clean Up

On Friday, 22 volunteers spent about 2 hours raking leaves. At the end of the morning 150 bags were collected. There will be a request for a smaller group to assist with clean up on Tuesday after the greens are winterized.

Adjournment

Lynne Penberthy-Ritchie thanked the executive for their efforts over the past year.

Anthony Tacoma moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mark Thompson.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.