

# Balmy Beach Lawn Bowling Club

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes

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November 16, 2025 | 1:00pm | *Meeting called to order by* Tom Marley

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#### Board Members

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Tom Marley, President | Jack Blakeley, Vice President | Jeff Maple, Treasurer | Dennis Bockus, OLBA Rep | Carl Triner, Immediate Past President | Victoria Robinson, Secretary

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#### Welcome and President's Message

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Tom welcomed the members and introduced the board members.

- BBC Governance Structure
  - Last year the governance structure of the BBC was changed to comply with changes to Not For Profit legislation
  - This fall the sports sections were directed to align the composition of their executive and the terms of the executive members with that of the BBC board
  - The executive could be made up of 3 or 5 members and members are elected for a 3-year term
  - We opted to have a 5-member executive and requested to stay with a two-year term but were unsuccessful
  - Under the new structure the position of Immediate Past President (IPP) is non-voting and has a term of one year, at the option of the IPP
  
- Successes of Bowlers in 2025
  - Rachel Jones, Mari-Lynn Wikant and Andrea Hampton won the District and Provincial Ladies Triples and went on to the Nationals in Edmonton, where they achieved an impressive fourth place
  - Cathy Moxey and Mark Pearson won the District Mixed Pairs
  - Mike Healey and Meno Jose won the District Men's Seniors

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to all the bowlers who competed this year.

- Greens Remediation
  - \$34,000 instead of quote of \$42,000 due to reuse of sod and soil
  - The new and replaced sod has taken in spite of the early snow; we are hoping for an early and warm spring
  
- History of Lawn Bowling at the BBC
  - Kevin McConnell is a long-time member of the Balmy Beach Club who has been compiling the histories of the club in recent years

- His newest release is Balmy Beach Book of Bowls, the history of lawn bowling at the BBC, which was sent to members of the LBC as a PDF in the fall
- I have been posting excerpts from it on our Facebook page, which included information on the creation of the lower green in 1951
  
- Sunday Euchre
  - Euchre started this month and will resume in January, monthly until April
  - It is held on the first Sunday of each month; registration starts at 11:30am and games start at noon
  - This is a fund raiser for lawn bowling, so come out and play; players are asked for a voluntary donation of \$10
  - Thank you to the BBC and Sandra Barrett, a lawn bowling member, for providing prizes at the last game of the past season; Sandra has also offered to provide a prize at each tournament, starting in January.

Tom thanked the club for all their assistance and support this year. We couldn't have done it without them.

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### Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes

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Approval of the minutes from the Spring 2025 meeting was requested.

Mike Healey moved to approve the minutes; Bonnie Morrice seconded the motion.

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### Treasurer's Report

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Our cash on hand on October 31 was \$27,162.29. The only outstanding items are:

1. Expenses from Jack in the amount of \$256.02
2. Deep tine aeration that was performed on October 30th for \$632.40
3. The cost of the Volunteer Appreciation night of \$1,178.80
4. Receipt from Elemental from the corporate event for \$300 that was paid in November.

The financial objective of Operations is to have the revenue from membership fees and rentals equal the cost of running the club (greens maintenance and equipment, clubhouse maintenance, and financial support of our successful competitive bowlers). This fiscal year, the club broke even from lawn bowling operations. Membership revenue was greater than budgeted by \$1,348 but offset by increased greens maintenance costs, payments to members who qualified for Provincial and National Championships, and clubhouse maintenance costs (including paper towels, TP, and cleaning supplies).

Net fundraising efforts were \$8,576 more than budgeted primarily from Corporate events. The only cost attributed to Fundraising are food costs.

The remaining grant money of \$1,600 was used to partially pay for the chemical storage locker in the greens maintenance shed.

Approval of the 2024/25 Financial Reports was requested.

Roger Cecchetto moved to approve the financial reports; Jack Blakeley seconded the motion.

### **Tournaments – Dennis Bockus**

I have been the OLBA Rep since 2020 and I'm pleased to advise that tournament enrolments and revenue have both recovered from the COVID decline. There was no Cosburn/Balmy challenge this year but BBC was very successful in other interclub championships.

We had 5 OLBA tournaments, 2 in-house tournaments, and 3 competitions against other clubs.

The OLBA tournaments raised \$2,810 for the club. In addition, we gave away more than that in prize money.

Thanks to the sponsors of the OLBA Tournaments – Delmanor Wynford Retirement Home, The Foot Guy (David Allison), Scott G. Howe Wealth Management, Centrum Financial Services (Rick Honeyford) and Wintergreen Indoor Lawn Bowling Club (John Adams).

Also thanks to Al Quance and Marko Thompson for sponsoring our two in-club tournaments.

Special thanks to Will and Angie, who did a lot of extra work to support the tournaments, Ken, Diane and Mark for setting up for them, and Erin for running two of the tournaments.

#### **OLBA Tournaments:**

- Friday, July 4, Delmanor Wynford Open Pairs, 2-bowl, 28 entries. Proceeds: \$590
- Friday, July 18, Scott Howe Mixed Trebles, 2-bowl, 20 entries. Proceeds: \$650
- Thursday, July 31, The Foot Guy Mixed Pairs, 26 entries. Proceeds: \$560
- Saturday, August 9, The Honey Cup Mixed Trebles, 12 entries. Proceeds: \$470
- Sunday, September 14, Wintergreen Open Pairs, 1 novice, 3 x 12 ends, 24 entries. Proceeds: \$540

#### **Club Tournaments – only open to Balmy members:**

- Coach Quance Classic, Saturday June 7
- RCYC Tournament, Sunday, July 20 & Thursday, September 11, Balmy Won!
- Beaches vs Kew Beach Challenge, Wednesday, July 16 & Wednesday, July 23, Balmy Won!
- Marko's Novice Tournament, Friday, August 15
- Boardwalk Challenge vs Kew Beach, Wednesday, Sept. 3 & Wednesday, Sept. 10, Balmy Won!

### **Corporate Events – Cathy Moxey and Cathleen Gates**

15 Corporate Events were booked in 2025 with total revenue of \$15,630 for the lawn bowling club. Here is some interesting data regarding the events:

- 7 Events were booked in June, 2 in July and 6 in August
- 7 of the 15 corporate clients were returning companies
- LBC members hosted 582 guests including helping at the BBC Staff Appreciation Day

Corporate Events could not happen without the Volunteers!! Thank You!!

Thank you to the 55 volunteers who gave their time. Not all volunteers are required at every event, but every effort is made to give everyone who volunteered at the beginning of the season the opportunity to participate in at least one event.

If you receive an email in 2026 with the heading BBLB CORPORATE EVENT it is a request to volunteer for an event. Please reply to the mail even if you can't make it.

If you're not sure you are on the Volunteer List, please see Cathleen after the meeting.

### **Skills and Drills – Rachel Jones**

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

Sarah and Ben from Taylor Bowls came and participants were able to try a variety of Taylor bowls. Under umpire Erin Chambers' instruction, players participated in Etiquette and Measuring workshops.

Thank you to all the coaches and Erin for their help, as well as the members who turned out to assist with the volunteer-heavy mini trebles game for the new bowlers. I don't plan to repeat this activity next year, as the holiday jitneys provide an opportunity to see what it's like to play a game, without the stress of teaching new bowlers about skipping and vicing. It proved to be too much information for first year bowlers.

The change in the start time from 6:00pm to 5:30 pm was a success. I sent out a survey at the end of the season and the feedback was consistently positive; they enjoyed the pace of the sessions and socializing on the deck afterwards.

Lastly, I was asked by Kew Beach to give a presentation on the content of our Skills and Drills program, as they had received very good feedback about our sessions.

### **Theatricks After School Program – Brian Snider**

This season we were pleased to host seven lawn bowl sessions for youngsters aged 5-11, four in June and three in September.

The group is coordinated by "Theatricks for Kids", After School Program, which serves children from local public schools: Balmy Beach, Williamson Road, Adam Beck, St. Dennis, and is hosted by the Claremont Academy School, on lower Silver Birch Ave.

Each session lasts 30 minutes, where the participants learn the basics of lawn bowls, and have the chance to play a short game.

Our club has several sets of child sized bowls, which are perfect for their hand size.

The program enables the Lawn Bowling Club to engage with the wider community to promote lawn bowling at a young age. Also, several of the children have parents who are BBC members, which helps our section engage with the main club members.

It's fun for all, even for the great group of volunteers who make this possible. Their support is greatly appreciated.

### **Mixed League – Elaine MacSween and David Smith**

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

This summer there were 27 teams with 81 bowlers and numerous spares. Due to the uneven number of teams, someone had a bye each week. Steve Chambers, Marcia Vandebosche and Norm Holman were the 2025 champions.

The league fee was \$40 this year, and we broke even. The season ended with the traditional banquet and awarding of prizes.

Based on a vote held at the end of the season, in 2026 games in June and September will start at 2:00pm and in July and August they will begin at 10:00am to avoid the high summer heat.

I want to thank Elaine for her continued assistance with the league.

### **Men's League – Ken McAulay**

It was a good year for the men's league with 57 players and 12 spares. We play a round-robin format, which means all teams must play each other, which requires 18 weeks of play. We started on May 20, 2025, and finished on September 30, 2025. We experienced three weather delays during the season. We play for the Wheler Cup, donated by Dr. Wheler, a local physician and BBC lawn bowler. This year the winners are Stuart Calvert, Ken O'Neill and Jamie Reynolds. Congratulations Gentlemen.

We also award a runner up trophy donated by Joe McNulty, a long-time member of the Balmy Beach Club. This trophy had not been awarded since 2000. We reinstated the trophy in 2024, and the winners were Mike Healey, Danny Corrie, and Jan Sommerfeld. They also won the trophy again in 2025. Congratulations Gentlemen.

Our season ends with a Championship Day tournament, held on September 30 this year. 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 fees pay for the banquet, prize money, polo shirts for the Wheler Cup winners, and all other expenses.

An interesting side note, when the runner up trophy was last awarded in 2000, the winners were Counte Duggan, Bob Fullerton, Henry Reiner and Doreen Creaney. Some of you know one or all those bowlers. It's a mystery how Doreen's name ended on that team in the Men's League. For those of you who didn't know Doreen she was a very accomplished bowler, an Ontario and Canadian Champion more than once and represented Canada in World Championships. Henry Reiner is still with us. I will talk with him to see if we can explain the mystery.

We welcome new bowlers in 2026.

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

### **Wednesday Night League – Roger Cecchetto**

Thank you to my team members, Amos D'Ortenzio & Brian Wikant, for their work and effort during the season. Thanks also to George Apap for his assistance to us with kicking this season off.

We changed the format for this year as a departure from what George has been doing over the past 3 years and moved to a single session.

This year there were:

- 81 Players
- 22 Teams
- 20 spares

The league champions were Bert Harvey, Amos D'Ortenzio and Brian Wikant.

The spirit and camaraderie of the league is evident in some of the team names: Bowling Stones, Lawn & Order, Bowls Deep and my fav, Irritable Bowl Syndrome.

It seems the feedback we got was very positive, but if anyone has any feedback for us, let us know.

Oh, condolences to all other convenors; I just heard that our Wednesday Night League was voted by the International Lawn Bowling Society as the "2025 World's Best Lawn Bowling League".

### **Thursday 5 Bees – Charlene Rathgeb**

Well we have had another successful year of good times, good laughs, good weather and good bowling!!

The 5 Bees league enjoyed a tightly fought season, with the winners of the Diane Carreau Trophy this year being the team of Colleen Clarke, Theresa Reeves and Elizabeth Asselstine.

Congratulations, ladies.

We had 12 regular teams of 3 in our league this year, and 25 spares. It was wonderful to see so many keen new players join us, and next year I am sure many of them will be regulars! That equals more teams. Yay us!

I look forward to the 2026 season, where we will once again play Thursday mornings at 10:30.

### **Aussie Pairs – Anthony Tacoma**

Aussie Bowls are scheduled every Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm during the season. This past season we averaged 30 to 40 bowlers, both men and women, every week.

Thank you to Alice Iacurci for organizing the pairs every week and to Bonnie and Denis Morrice for always helping to set up.

We bowl two against two and this gives bowlers the opportunity to be both the lead and skip. It's a great chance to practice your skills and play with different bowlers every week. We hope you join us next season.

### **Short Mat Bowling – Carl Trinier**

Short mat bowling normally takes place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm, from October to April, but due to the club renovations the start has been delayed. It is a free drop-in event, open to all BBC members. Generally there are 16 to 24 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.

Last year Mike Healey and Jules Marsen won a Silver medal at the short mat national championships in Niagara. This year 4 pairs teams will be competing in the championship, being held in Lindsay. Thank you to the main club for allowing the participants to practice in spite of the renovations.

### **Grounds Beautification – Marjorie Walsh**

Thank you to everyone who helped out in the gardens this year. Your efforts and willingness are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing what the summer of '26 brings and working with you once again in the gardens.

Marjorie

### **Food and Supplies – Angie Williams**

This season we provided food and beverages to participants in 5 jitneys, 9 tournaments and to the volunteers who helped with the 15 corporate events. A shout out goes to Donna Klebanoff, Lucy Hunter, Marci Doyle, Lynn Penberthy Ritchie, Launnie Garretson, Jo Bradley and Mary Opper for their help in the kitchen. Thanks go to Will, Jack and Ken O'Neill who ensured everything was set up outside, and to Jeff, who paid my expenses on time. Apologies to anyone I missed. We couldn't have done it without you!

To ensure compliance with food safety rules, part way through the season we moved from preparing our own trays of cheese and veggies to purchasing them from grocery stores, and the club began to prepare the breakfast trays of

bagels, breads and spreads. It was a big transition but it worked brilliantly in the end. Thank you to Peter and the food service staff for arranging the on-time delivery of the delicious sweets.

I enjoyed my time in the role of Kitchen Queen, but wasn't expecting to lose Vicki Jo early in the season. However, it was a great way to meet a good number of members, both from Balmy and from visiting clubs. As far as I know the position is still open for next season. If you are interested in giving back to the LBC, the kitchen is a great place to do it. I highly recommend sharing the load the way Vicki Jo and I did, so think of coming forward as a partnership!

Tom expressed thanks on behalf the club for Angie's services this year.

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## Elections

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Carl conducted the election for the positions of President, OLBA Representative and Secretary for three year terms, per the new BBC requirements.

Tom Marley ran unopposed for the position of President. He was elected by a show of hands.

Ken O'Neill ran unopposed for the position of OLBA Representative. He was elected by a show of hands.

There were no nominees for the position of Secretary. Per the new BBC requirements, the new Executive will attempt to recruit a volunteer.

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## Other Business/Questions

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Jack announced that the club had received a plaque from OLBA for our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Also, a "turf ranch" has been created near the storage sheds so that in future, the greens will be able to be patched rather than seeded, where appropriate.

Jack outlined some of his plans for next year:

- Hang remaining pennants
- Build a shelf for the trophies

Kitchen Services in the Clubhouse:

- Erin noted that the food provided for events has expanded exponentially over the years and perhaps should be revisited
- Tom explained that the membership is larger than it has ever been; it's nice to give members the benefit of their dues and registration fees through food service for jitneys and in-house tournaments; it is difficult to cut back on food provided at OLBA tournaments because other clubs provide impressive spreads
- Angie agreed that a lot of pressure comes from keeping up with some of the other clubs
- Kinmond asked us to provide the BBC with the number of events in 2026 and they will see how the club can assist

A member asked what is happening with renovation/replacement of the clubhouse.

- Kinmond explained that access to the Trillium Grant has failed two years in a row because applications must be submitted through the main club using the club's financial reports, which gives the impression that we are not in need of funding
- The BBC is developing a 5- and 10-year infrastructure plan that will include the clubhouse
- A site plan has been ordered for the building
- We will continue to necessary small fixes; a rebuild (within the same footprint and height (no second floor) is on the books but no date has been set

Mike Healey asked if there is any interest in club shirts for 2025, similar to those available the past season and provided by the same company. The reaction was positive, so an email will be sent in enough time that the shirts can be available for the full season.

A member asked if there were any plans to refurbish the lower green.

- Tom advised that we are waiting to see the results on the upper green. As well, the lower green may not need as extensive a job as was required on the upper green. It may be able to be addressed through regular topdressing.

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### Fall Clean Up

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Because the leaves are still on the trees, the fall clean up has not been scheduled. Assistance with top dressing will be required though. An email will be sent.

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### Adjournment

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Ray Knight moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Dennis Bockus.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.