

# MINUTES

## Balmy Beach Lawn Bowling Club Spring Meeting

April 21, 2024 | 11:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Tom Marley

### Board Members

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

### Welcome and President's Message

- Tom introduced the LBC board members.
- There was a moment of silence for Leslie Middleton, who passed over the winter.
- Thanks and recognition are due to the following people:
  - Cathy Moxey and Mari-Lynn Wikant have been applying for the grants that come available to groups such as ours. They recently completed an application for a \$199,500 Trillium grant. If successful, this grant will be used to start renovations on our clubhouse.
  - Cathy Moxey is the front end of corporate events for the second year, receiving the applications and liaising with Lisa in the front office. Cathleen Gates and Lesley Barrans will round up the volunteers who help make these events so enjoyable for our visitors.
  - Angie Williams and Vicki Jo Bowden are managing the food and supplies coordination this year; Angie will do the shopping and Vicki Jo will manage the food and volunteers for tournaments and jitneys.
  - The staff of the front office, Lisa, Tanya, Erin and Peter continue to be helpful and supportive of all our events.

Tom discussed our loss of fundraising through methods deemed to be gambling by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission (OLGC). This includes 50/50 draws, euchre and any other activities where prizes are won based on luck, not skill. Jeff Maple prepared a comprehensive and compelling analysis of the effect of this on our revenue, and he and Tom presented it to the BBC board. The board recognized the impact of the loss and also recognized that the lawn bowling section and its facilities are an integral part of this club. They are now paying for the total cost of our greenskeeper and the student working on the greens (in the event there is no summer student grant).

Kinmond Smith (President of the BBC) spoke regarding the change in the financial support provided by the BBC board to the lawn bowling club (LBC):

- For many years a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the BBC and the LBC provided support to lawn bowling that covered 75% of the greenskeeper contract and 25% of summer student wages.
- It was decided that put an unreasonable financial burden on the LBC, made worse with the recent restriction on fund raising, and the BBC will now be funding 100% of the greenskeeper contract and the summer student costs.
- If the Trillium Grant is approved, then the board will consider additional support to allow the completion of the project.

- The board is aware that the LBC clubhouse is in need of repair and it is part of the capital improvements (like the work currently underway on the deck) to be considered in the future.

A member asked for an explanation of the OLGC rule that has caused our loss of revenue.

- The OLGC only allows games of chance to take place in service organizations such as the Legion or when the total amount of money raised is given to a registered charity.
- The Balmy Beach Club is a not-for-profit organization, not a charitable organization.
- If an inspection by OLGC found that games of chance were being conducted on the property (which includes the lawn bowling greens and clubhouse), the BBC liquor license could be revoked.
- Games of chance include 50/50 draws, random draws for prizes, and euchre.
- Lawn bowling prizes at tournaments and jitneys are awarded for skill and are therefore acceptable.
- In the fall the LBC will reconsider the euchre tournaments if it seems feasible to run them based on a \$10.00 donation to the LBC.
- We will work with the club to determine if there is a prize that could be awarded that would not contravene the OLGC rules.

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## Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes

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- Al Quance moved to approve the minutes. Mary Oppen seconded the motion.

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## Treasurer's Report

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Jeff presented the budget for the coming year, based on a registration fee of \$145.00. This is an increase of \$10.00 over last year, with \$40.00 going to OLBA and \$105.00 to the club.

The budget was developed and the fees set prior to the meeting with the BBC board, and reflects the loss of fundraising revenue of approximately \$5,000 and the addition of summer student costs. It was a balanced budget that relied on the current cash on hand to manage unforeseen expenses.

The changes resulting from the additional support from the BBC will be reflected in the forecast revision after registration is complete.

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## Membership Registration

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Jeff updated the club on changes to the registration system and apologized for the difficulty members had using the Jotform template on the website. Although we have been assured that the template is the same as last year, it didn't work for most members. The fillable PDF was more successful, and we thank you for persevering.

If anyone has expertise with online registration and would be willing to discuss the matter with Jeff, please reach out.

As of last night we had 75 registrations in hand, of which 64 are fully paid. We have also received 12 payments that are waiting for registration forms.

The OLBA has created a new membership system, SAM. Three board members have been trained in how to use it. Every club has access to SAM, and club tournament coordinators (Dennis Bockus, in our case) and OLBA chairs can access it to ensure that players are registered OLBA members. For this reason, the OLBA is no longer providing annual renewal stickers and it is not necessary for clubs to provide membership cards to new members. We have decided that cards will be provided this year. They will be distributed once registration is complete.

In the future, all members will have access to the system, but for the moment please continue to use the tournament registration tab on the lawn bowling website (<https://balmybeachlawnbowling.com/tournaments/>).

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## Player Development Camps

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The club is hoping to offer two clinics this summer. They are being arranged by Mary Lou Richards, who will work with the OLBA to bring in enough coaches to support the registrations.

The first clinic is Delivery, Line and Weight and will be of interest to both new and experienced bowlers wanting to develop consistency in their bowling.

The second is an Introduction to Competition clinic. It will be appropriate for those new to competition and wanting to transition from club/jitney bowling to open tournaments.

Detailed information will follow by email.

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## Tournament Update

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Dennis provided the following update of 2024 BBC tournaments and their sponsors. The tournaments are posted on the lawn bowling website under the Tournaments tab, where you can also register.

OLBA Tournaments:

- Friday, July 5, Baird McGregor Insurance, Open Pairs, 2-bowl
- Saturday/Sunday, July 13/14, Cosburn BBLBC, Combo Fours - John Adams (Wintergreen) sponsors our half
- Friday, July 19, Scott Howe Wealth Management, Mixed Trebles, 2-bowl
- Thursday, August 1, The Foot Guy (David Allison), Mixed Pairs
- Saturday, August 17, Mixed Trebles (Centum Financial Services)
- Sunday, September 8, Joan Beal Real Estate Open Pairs, 1 novice

BBC In-House Tournaments:

- Coach Quance Classic, Saturday June 1 (Al Quance), Mixed Trebles; 2 experienced bowlers, 1 novice
- Novice Tournament, Friday August 16 (Marko Thompson), Mixed Trebles, novices only

Challenges:

Beaches Challenge (Mixed) – July 17 at Kew; July 24 at Balmy

Boardwalk Challenge (Men's) – Sept. 4 at Kew; September 11 at Balmy

RCYC Challenge – July 25 at Balmy; September 5 at RCYC

Dennis is the Draw Master for the OLBA tournaments that take place at our club. It is a vital position and at this point he has no backup. He requested that members consider acting as an understudy to him with the goal of filling in for him as needed. An email will go out with further details.

A member asked if it was possible to shorten the number of ends or allow shared team positions to accommodate those who cannot bowl three 12-end games.

- There is little flexibility with respect to OLBA sanctioned tournaments, as bowlers use them as practice for Provincials and Nationals and their expectations are that the OLBA tournaments will follow the format of the higher level events. As well, a team with a shared position could use that as an unfair advantage over other teams.

- Erin noted that for BBC events, such as jitneys and club-sponsored tournaments, we do allow position sharing and the games involve 3 games of 6 ends, rather than 12.

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## Bowling Convenor Updates

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- Mixed Trebles League - Monday 2pm (Convenors – Elaine MacSween and Dave Smith)
  - There are 74 bowlers registered at this point but only 24 skips; with 24 skips a maximum of 72 people can be assigned to teams, and the balance will be spares.
  - If there are no more than 84 players (including 28 skips) register play on a team, the games will all be played in the afternoon (no morning session)
  - Elaine and Dave hope to be able to offer training to new bowlers prior to the beginning of league play.
  - The players draft will take place on May 13 and the league starts on May 27.
- Tuesday 2pm – Men’s Trebles League (Convenor – Ken McAulay)
  - All Male Bowlers are welcome. League registration closes April 30.
  - This year’s registration has increased by approximately 10% for a total of 70 bowlers.
  - Bowling begins May 21 at 2:00 pm, weather permitting.
  - The season ends in mid-October with a banquet and awards.
- Wednesday 7pm – Wednesday Night Open Trebles League (Convenor – George Apap)
  - The Wednesday Night league is an opportunity to make up your own team.
  - The league will have two segments. The first segment will be from May 29 - July 24. The second segment will be from August 7 - September 25. Teams have the option of playing in one or both segments.
  - Any inquiries about the Wednesday Night Open Trebles League should be directed to [bbcwnbowls@gmail.com](mailto:bbcwnbowls@gmail.com)
- Thursday 10:30am – 5 Bees (Ladies’ Trebles League) (Convenor Charlene Rathgeb)
  - There are 10 teams at this point and could move to 12 if 2 skips would put their names forward.
  - In the event that this does not occur there will be a healthy roster of spares.
  - The season will get underway on Thursday, June 13 at 10:30 sharp.
  - There is no additional fee for this league.
- Tuesday 6:00pm to 8:00pm –Skills and Drills (Convenor – Rachel Jones)
  - Rachel was unable to attend and Mari-Lynn spoke on her behalf.
  - Skills and Drills is drop-in (no pre-registration required), with drills starting at 6:00pm.
  - The sessions will begin on Tuesday May 21 (weather permitting).
  - Questions should be directed to Rachel.
- Thursday 7pm – TBD
  - Tom explained that last year Vicki Jo volunteered to convene a jitney style evening of bowling, but participation was limited.
  - It seems that most members are bowled-out by Thursday evening, having had up to 4 sessions on the greens between league games and Skills and Drills.
  - Skills and Drills suggested they would offer follow-up practice sessions to their participants on Thursday evening.
  - It can also be designated as Open Bowling time, when any member is free to practice or set up a game with friends.

- This matter will be considered further, and an email will be sent.
- Friday 2pm – Aussie Pairs (Convenors Anthony Tacoma, Alice Iacurci and Bonnie and Denis Morrice)
  - Aussie Pairs is a game of 2 players per team, 4 bowls per person, and every person ends up bowling as lead and skip.
  - It is a drop-in session; no registration required.
  - Teams are assigned by the coordinators on a random basis each week, and depending on the number of participants, some may be assigned to play trebles or practice their singles game.
  - Last year there were as many as 40 participants.
  - Please plan on arriving 20 minutes ahead of time to help set up.
- Short Mat Bowling (Convenor – Carl Trinier)
  - Short mat bowling takes place once the outdoor seasons has ended and runs from October to April.
  - Games are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm in the main hall; the final game of 2023/24 is April 24.
  - There have been up to 24 players per evening playing on 3 mats.
  - It is a very social evening and is open to all club members.
  - Thanks to the club for allowing us to store the equipment in the hall, to the staff for setting up the music and to Scotty Tate and Mike Healey for setting up the mats.
  - Tom noted that it is becoming more popular across the province; there was a recent tournament in Lindsay with 14 mats.

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## Corporate Events, Kitchen/Clubhouse and Grounds Beautification

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Coordinators of the activities that provide support to the club operations spoke.

- Cathy Moxey, Cathleen Gates and Leslie Barrans – Corporate Events
  - New rates were set this year (\$600.00 up to 20 people; additional participants are \$30.00/person).
  - 4 events in June and 1 in July have already been booked, and additional companies have expressed interest.
  - Volunteers are required to make these events a success, and Cathleen and Leslie will be sending an email with details shortly.
  - Past events are posted on the LBC Facebook page and 2024 events are included on the calendar on the LBC website.
- Angie Williams and Vicki Jo Bowden – Kitchen/Clubhouse Operations
  - Angie and Vicki Jo will be working together this year, with Angie doing the shopping and Vicki Jo managing the food and supplies ordering and coordinating volunteers to help during jitneys and tournaments.
  - Food suggestions are welcome and home baking would always be appreciated.
  - The status of the fridge will be determined before the start of the season.

- Marjorie Walsh – Grounds Beautification

Tom read Marjorie's comments as she was unable to attend:

- Hello to everyone from the Gardens.
  - A lilac bush was planted last Fall along the west fence of the lower greens. I see it has survived the winter. It should grow eventually to be a good size and provide some visual interest.
  - There are no great plans for the gardens this year. I plan to start the spring clean up as the weather permits. An email will be sent out to my faithful helpers. Anyone interested in gardening and participating can contact me and I will include you in the email.
  - One area I would like to improve is the garden behind the club. A peony and hosta may like to make a home there.
  - Many thanks to all who help out and I look forward to seeing you all soon.
- Victoria Robinson – Theatricks After School Program
    - For the past few years, the LBC has welcomed children from Theatricks to experience lawn bowling for an hour each week at the beginning of the season and in September.
    - The children come from schools throughout the neighborhood.
    - This year they will be bowling on Monday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00pm starting on May 27 and ending June 24.
    - Although Theatricks staff are present to supervise the students and assist with the bowling, volunteers are needed to help the children deliver the bowls properly and learn some of the concepts of the game.
    - Like last year, it is hoped that some Mixed league bowlers will make themselves available at the end of their game to have some more fun on the greens with the kids.

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## Other Business

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- Name tags will be ordered again this year, once registration is complete; Jo Bradley and Marcha Armstrong volunteered to coordinate the process this year.
- A member asked when the greens will be open for practice
  - An email will go out to all members when the greens are open; it will depend on the state of the greens, which depends to a large extent on the weather.
  - An email will also be sent identifying all lawn bowling opportunities available at the club, including Open Bowling.
- A member asked if large mats are required
  - Large mats will definitely be required at the beginning of the season.
  - The matter will be discussed with the greenskeeper (Will) and an email will be sent providing guidelines for their use during the season.
  - It was noted that even experienced bowlers can deliver bowls in a way that damages the greens and Will commented that damage was often apparent on Mondays after Open Bowling on the weekend.
- A member asked if Grippo was going to be available for sale
  - Tom ordered some from a shop in Britain that was going out of business and has it available for \$12.00 per tube.
  - There is a sign up list at the registration desk at the back of the room.
- Will noted that there will be a greens clean up day coming in the next week or so; an email will be sent with details.
- A member thanked the executive for their efforts.

- Tom reiterated the need for volunteers to support key activities/positions, including
  - Euchre coordinator
  - Tournament masters
  - OLBA rep
  - Technology expertise with respect to online registration systems

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## Adjournment

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Al Quance moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mike Healey seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.