

**District 16
Minutes
Spring Meeting – May 3th, 2014
Iroquois Lawn Bowling Club**

Present	Executive	6
	Delegates	19
	Visitors	10

1) **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00

2) **Welcome by District Chair:**

The Chair welcomed all delegates and visitors on behalf of the District. He thanked all those who had taken the time to come to the Iroquois LBC for the meeting and thanked the Iroquois club executives for hosting the meeting. He then introduced the District 16 executives beginning with his 2nd Vice Chairman, Blaine Phillips, 1st Vice Chairman, Ruth Duffy, himself as Chair, Ron Harrison, the Past Chair Flo Barclay, followed by Wayne Daley as Secretary and Suzanne Erickson as Treasurer.

3) **Welcome by Host Club:**

Terry Triskle welcomed everyone on behalf of the Iroquois Lawn Bowling Club. He noted that his club's greens were coming along quite nicely and would soon be in shape for tournament play. He also spoke of the Open Pairs Tournament that the club would be having on July 8th.

4) **Moment of Silence:**

The Chair then called for a moment of silence to remember those lawn bowlers in our district who have died in the past year or who were no longer able to participate in the sport due to age or infirmity. Members present mention especially Bave Currie, Bill Lawlor (Ottawa & Elmdale) and Bob Pope (Elmdale & Nepean).

5) **Minutes of the Fall 2009 Meeting:**

- a) **Errors and Omissions:** There were no errors or omissions.
- b) **Motion of Acceptance:** Moved by Kin Delaine (Galette LBC), 2nd by George Burns-Nichols (Goulbourn LBC) that the minutes be accepted. **Motion Carried**

6) **Business Arising:**

- a) Coaching: Blaine Phillips (Highland Park LBC) gave a presentation prepared by Jane Maloney which laid out the issues of coach training, certification and recognition from the OLBA perspective. The full report is attached as an addendum to these minutes.
- b) Bill Sheffield (Goulbourn LBC) who had worked with Jane Maloney in the issue of coaching, supported the information that Blaine had offered and said that Bowls

Canada had developed a series of manuals for the various skill levels of lawn bowling. He showed the first three manuals which he had brought with him to the meeting.

7) **Correspondence:**

The Chair reported that the only correspondence he had received had to do with the District's involvement with the Zoomer show and with correspondence he had had with club presidents and with members of his executive on District business. None of this correspondence need be reported in the meeting minutes nor was there any need for action. He noted, however, that, in his view, when an email is sent it would only be polite for the recipient to acknowledge receipt of the email by responding to the sender. He had had a good deal of difficulty with those to whom he had sent emails and received nothing by way of acknowledgement.

8) **Report of the Treasurer:**

a) The Treasurer reported as follows:

Total Revenues as of 30 April, 2014	\$966.50
Total Expenses as of 30 April, 2013	\$858.31
Net income for the period	\$108.19

b) The treasurer noted that she had a cheque for \$500 from a Zoomer Show sponsor (Waterside) which was not reflected in her financial statement since it was part of the funds in support of the District's participation in the Zoomer show and that invoice had not yet been received.

c) Finally, there was no discussion on the per club levy of \$2.00

9) **Report of the District Chair**

The Chair reported that he had been unable to attend the Spring meeting of the OLBA due to illness. However, he had asked Gerry Laporte, Dave Jefferies and George Burns-Nichols to report on the meeting, on Officiating and on Marketing respectively. As well, Sandra Jefferies reported on Membership.

Gerry Laporte (Representing District 16 Chair):

The OLBA meeting which was held on Saturday, April 5th in Woodstock, Ontario, was chaired by Alan Dean (President).

- Mr. Dean made a plea for clubs to host the 2015 Majors Tournament which will be held in Ontario next year.
- There was a special sports award given to long time bowler and volunteer, Larry Wood.
- There was a notice of a motion to be voted on at the fall meeting that the number of directors be reduced from the current 12-20 to 8-12.
- There was also a hint that maybe the fall meeting in future might become a meeting for District Chairs only.
- Anna Mees, the National executive director for Bowls Canada Boulingrin, spoke at length about the National Planning Summit and its vision statement, which focuses youth involvement.
- There were a number of presentations of awards for long existing clubs, 2013 club membership winners, the Junior awards and the Bill Boettger volunteer award. In

this respect, Dave and Sandra Jefferies had been awarded the Bill Boettger award for 2013.

- The afternoon was devoted to meetings and break-out sessions.

Dave Jefferies (Officiating):

- Dave said that the Rule Book (Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Crystal Mark, 2nd Edition) currently in use would continue in use for the next year, but that a new rule book was in the process of being written.
- He noted that he would not have to make his usual pitch for more umpires as he has five candidates for umpire in the District. He said that these candidates will shortly begin their training and that would be followed by an open book exam and an on-the-greens practicum to test each candidate's knowledge of the rule book. He said that once the candidates had passed the test they would be identified as Level 1 Umpires while those with longer time and more experience in the field would be Level 2 Umpires.
- Bill Sheffield (Goulbourn) asked a question about the correct minimum distance from the hog line to the jack. In one place the distance is given as 23 metres. In another it is given as 21 metres. Dave said that this was one of the changes which has taken place and would be identified in the new Rule Book when it comes out. He said that, at present, the correct minimum distance would be taken as 21 metres.
- Dave Jefferies informed us that Gerry Laporte was awarded the Bill Boettger VOTY award.

George Burns-Nichols (Marketing)

- George reported that the Marketing Break-out session had been chaired by Dave Burrows (OLBA Marketing Director). The objective of the marketing action was to grow membership in the sport and to retain the members we have.
- George noted that OLBA had developed a long series of activities that each club could use to improve its membership numbers. He had returned with a handout provided by OLBA and had included this handout in the envelopes of each club. He hoped that each club executive would review the OLBA suggestions and implement as many of them as would be practical.

Sandra Jefferies. (Membership)

- Sandra said that in her breakout session the focus was also on the shrinking membership and the steps that could be taken to encourage new members to join and then remain to enjoy the sport.
- Communications and friendship are key points to growing and retaining club members. Make the new member feel welcome; make sure he or she understands what is going on while playing the sport and don't over coach the member.
- She noted that all clubs are experiencing a shrinking membership. District 16 is not alone in this respect.
- She also said that clubs should not forget students and should try to get them involved in the sport.

Gerry Laporte came back to explain the new membership cards that were being introduced by OLBA. The new cardboard cards will be provided to first year members. There is no membership number on the card. These numbers will be provided to clubs and thus to members in the month of August of the year the member joins. The cards will be good for the first year a member joins. On the second year the new member will get a plasticized card to which annual stickers will be affixed. Members with plasticized cards will not have the cardboard cards.

10) 2013 Governor General Tournament Committee Report.

- a) The Committee of three trustees, comprised of Joannie Marks, Denis Davignon and Tony Barnard, have met and made some minor changes to the Tournament rules. Attempts have been made to contact the Quebec Trustees to get agreement to these minor changes but so far have been unsuccessful.
- b) Each club in the District has been asked to provide a representative to form a body which will prepare for and manage the running of the Tournament. It was noted that the host club should not be burdened with this activity, which has been done in the recent past. Several clubs agreed to seek volunteers for this activity.
- c) It was also noted by the Past Chair, Flo Barclay, that it was a task of the 1st and 2nd Vices to call the club delegates together. That body would then elect a chairperson and begin the planning process to prepare for all elements of the Tournament from the Parade at the beginning to the Presentations at the end.

11) Novice Day

Flo Barclay, Past Chair (Galette) said that Novice Day this year would take place at the Almonte LBC on July 6th. She said that this day would be a day for the District novices to learn a bit more about the sport of bowls. There would be some instructional sessions in the morning, but she wanted to focus more on competition. Consequently, she intended to have at least two games in which the novices would compete against each other. She indicated that she was seeking some support from long time bowlers to help with novice activities. When asked she stated that this Novice Day would not be the District Novice Championship (Singles) which is to take place on Saturday, Sept. 13th in Smiths Falls.

12) New Business

a) Zoomer Show

Gerry Laporte reported that the District participation in the Zoomer Show had been quite successful. Ron Harrison – Chair (Brockville) did the start-up work and organized the involvement of the Nepean, Galetta, Elmdale, Goulburn and Highland Park clubs. The booth was manned during the two days of the show by members from these clubs. The selection of the booth location was excellent as it was close to the front entrance, next to the silent auction table, close to the washrooms, and far from the bandstand at the back of the hall.

Gerry noted that funding for the District's involvement had come from three sources. Waterside Retirement Home had generously provided a \$500 gift; the Zoomer Show organizers agreed to a generous reduction in the cost of the booth, and some funds were being donated by OLBA.

When all the funds are tallied it is doubtful if the District will have to pay anything extra.

During the two days many contacts were made with visitors to the booth. Approximately 250 visitors filled in ballots for the gift basket donated by Kelly Funeral Homes, Islandview Suites and George Burns-Nichols. Sixty-seven of these visitors indicated an interest in Bowls. These names of those interested have been collated and put on a spreadsheet by Alice Keiwin for use by District clubs who should be contacting the individuals. Alice Keiwin was particularly thanked for all the work she did in making the District participation a success.

There was a general agreement that the District should participate in next year's Zoomer show. There was also a suggestion that a demonstration film be shown in the booth to attract visitors and indicate what the sport was all about.

b) District Volunteer of the Year Award (Motion)

Gerry Laporte read a notice of a motion as follows:

'Moved by Gerry Laporte and seconded by Bill Westwood that the selection of the district's yearly volunteer of the year award be carried out by an independent committee of bowlers selected by the executive and that the nominees current and previous contributions to the sport of bowls in the district and club level be considered.'

It is the view of Mr. Laporte that the District needs a way of acknowledging its volunteers not just for their bowling skills but also for the work that they have done over years, and that the selection should be made by an independent committee with no ties to clubs or to the District.

Flo Barclay stated that the motion was out of order because no such award 'volunteer of the year' existed. She went on to offer another view saying that the District already had an award for honoring bowlers in the District who had been outstanding not just as bowlers but also as volunteers, and, in an effort to reduce the number of candidates to be considered, had limited the time period to the current year. She further noted that the District Board was quite capable of providing an unbiased consideration of the candidates and of selecting someone appropriate.

There was some discussion amongst the attendees and it was suggested that the motion be amended to indicate a second who was present at the meeting and that the award be for bowlers and not for volunteers since the selection of the best bowler was a mathematical consideration and not one of judgement. Finally, the amended motion should reduce the time frame to the current year. The new motion reads as follows:

'Moved by Gerry Laporte and seconded by Ross Reid that the selection of the District's bowler of the year award be carried out by an independent committee of bowlers selected by the executive.' Gerry noted that former winners of the award, executive members of any club and District Board members could not be eligible for the award but could be asked to sit on the selection committee. Of the nineteen delegates at the Spring meeting fourteen voted in a show of hands in favour of the modified motion. This was taken to mean that the District would have a new bowler of the year award which would take the place of the previous District Bowler of the year award.

c) District Executive Term of Service. The proposal made by Suzanne Erickson last fall that the District Chair term of service be extended from one to two years is withdrawn.

13) Club Comments

The Brockville club noted that its tournament fees have been raised to \$10. The club also pointed out that their greens have been made available to a croquet club for use on

Thursday evenings. Finally, the club said the May 24/25 would be Open Doors in Brockville and that the Lawn Bowling Club would participate in this event.

The Highland Park club noted that this was their 100 year anniversary and that the club will host four tournaments as usual.

Deep River commented that the club's greens are in superb condition and invited bowlers from all the other clubs to come and see for themselves. The club also noted that it now had a website and could be contacted at drlbc.org.

Joannie Marks (Elmdale) noted that the Ontario Games included a lawn bowling event and would be played in Windsor, ON. Mim Barry (Deep River) remarked that the Ontario Games were the culmination of the County games played across the province. The North Renfrew County games which also included a lawn bowling event would take place on 28 May.

Gerry Laporte informed the meeting that on Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 in the evening, CTV Ottawa would be televising lawn bowling being played at the Nepean LBC. He suggested that we all tune in to watch the telecast.

14) **Fall Meeting**

The District 16 Fall meeting will take place at the Brockville LBC on Saturday, October 4th. The Spring meeting in 2015 will take place at Galetta on a date yet to be determined.

15) **Thanks to Host Club:**

The Chair went on to thank the Iroquois Club for its fine hospitality in hosting the District 16 Spring meeting.

16) **Motion to Adjourn**

It was moved by Ted Tozer (Galetta Bowls) that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

Coaching Report

Jane Maloney

OLBA has a new coaching coordinator – Dave Burrows.

Community or club coaching courses are being offered this year – today in Hamilton, next weekend in Toronto. Should there be sufficient interest (15) the course could be held in/for Eastern Ontario. Could the District Clubs please poll their bowlers and submit their names to me. (613-820-9591)

The competitive coaching material is being worked on this summer and this level of coaching will be made available in the autumn. Interested club coaches should contact Dave Burrows – his information is on the OLBA site.

BCB executive director, Anna Mees and I met yesterday. The old NCCP levels 1-5 were replaced in 1999 with the new athlete alignment program model. In Ontario this means trained club coaches – these coaches are not yet evaluated and thus are not certified. The evaluation has not yet been developed.

Once the competitive coach program is in place training and evaluation will start. Additionally there will be two external courses required for full certification.

There will eventually be a requirement for both club and competitive coaches to keep their skills and certification current.

Club coaches should verify/activate their information and upgrade their birthdates on line (the default is January 1, 1900) at coach.ca.

BCB is working on the website and will have updates on coaching courses to be run and signed up for. This will be on the program bar – then click Locker.

Club and competitive coaches will be recognized by NCCP

I have the booklet “Bowls a Sport for Life” Long Term Athlete Development one for each club that guides bowlers to reach their full potential, increase their participation in bowls and improve their health and well being. Each club can make this available to their bowlers. This resource is also online at BCB.

Respectfully submitted.