

OLBA District 16

FALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hosted by Galetta Lawn Bowling Club
119 Darwin St. Galetta

September 28th, 2019, 10.00 a.m.

D r a f t Minutes

1. Opening Remarks

a. Welcome by Chair (*Flo Silvestro*)

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors and club delegates. She then invited all attendees to sign in.

b. Welcome by host club (*Russell Oatman*)

Russell Oatman welcomed delegates and visitors on behalf of the Galetta Lawn Bowls and wished them a good meeting.

c. Moment of silence (*Flo Silvestro*)

A moment of silence was observed in memory of those members who are no longer with us. The following names were mentioned:

Jim Hornsby	- Elmdale
Jill Bond	-Highland Park
Don Murray	-Galetta
Sandra Partington	- Highland Park
Roy McCooeye	-Goulbourn

2. Adoption of the Agenda (*Flo Silvestro*)

The Chair turned the meeting's attention to the agenda and thanked Wayne Harding for posting in on the District's WEB site. She noted that in Item 7 it was Bill Rogers who would be doing the Ottawa Sports Awards. She then called for any additions to the agenda. Seeing none she moved that the Agenda be adopted. Motion was seconded by John Jackson of Nepean.

Carried

3. Minutes of the 2017 Spring Meeting

a. Errors and omissions

Some errors were noted in the names recorded under 'Moment of Silence' Item 4.

b. With these errors corrected it was moved by Jane Baker of Highland Park and seconded by Margaret Harding of Goulbourn that the Minutes of the Spring Meeting be adopted.

- c. Business arising
No business arising from the Minutes.

4. **Correspondence**

No correspondence noted from the Secretary. The Chair has received a number of email notes from OLBA, club members, etc. which she dealt with herself, occasionally with assistance from other Board members. None needed to be brought before this meeting.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (*Suzanne Erickson*)

The bank balance as of May this year stood at 3,373.02. Revenue was \$60.07. Expenses through the season amounted to \$444.20 for posters, mailings, OLBA meeting, engravings and umpire qualifications. The bank balance now stands at \$2,988.89. There were no questions. The Chair thanked Suzanne for her continued support of the District and of lawn bowling.

Suzanne went on to say that it was a quiet year. However, she would continue with a \$2.00 charge per member from each club in 2020. Gerry Laporte of Nepean asked if the District's investments had changed. Suzanne replied that they hadn't and that assets of \$1,030.00 in score cards as well as investments of 3,572.96 for a total worth of \$7,591.85.

6. **Reports**

a. Report by the Governor General's Committee

The committee members present consisted of David Smith and Rob Rienzo. Joannie Marks was not present.

David Smith provided a Committee report noting the changes that had taken place this year with the death of Tony Bernard and the resignation of Gerry Laporte. He identified the members of the Men's and Women's Fours teams both A and B. He also identified the Men's and Women's Novice Singles. He noted that the GG Tournament had been played at the Westmount LBC on August 31st and that Quebec had won three of the four events. It was only Isabelle Dobbing from the Iroquois LBC in Women's Novice Singles who was victorious.

Rob Rienzo, as GG Committee Treasurer, reported that the GG Committee had an opening balance in 2019 of \$2,890. The income for this year was \$1,180. The expenses for the year were \$446. Consequently, the Committee's Bank balance now stands at around \$3,600.

The Chair noted that Senior Tours is a sponsor of District Events that we should support them by using their services when we can as six or seven District 16 bowlers have already done.

The Governor General reports had acceptance from attendees.

b. Report by the Marketing Committee

The Chair presented a Marketing Committee report. She thanked Larry Myers who has chaired this committee for several years and is stepping down to concentrate on work he has with the Nepean LBC. A replacement will be needed for this position.

c. Reports by District Clubs

- i. Almonte – The club has had significant issues with their greens but is in the process of repairing them. The club had to cancel some events this year because of the damage. The club expects to run a full slate of events next season. This year the club lost ten members. However, though a strong new member drive, the number of members has been maintained.
- ii. Brockville had no report.
- iii. Deep River – The club chair reported a loss of some members this year but hopes to get additional members through a ‘short mat’ bowling program through the winter and a junior program next season. The club has applied again for a New Horizon grant both for capital equipment and some short mat equipment. The club’s executive remains the same except that there is a new Tournament Director, Rosemary McGuire.
- iv. Elmdale – The club now had 95 members. Some repair work about to be undertaken in that the ditch boards on both greens would be replaced. As result of a New Horizon grant the club would have some new bowls next season.
- v. Galetta – The Club president reported the status of membership and the events that had taken place at the club during the season. He also noted some of the events to take place in the coming season including the hosting of the 2020 Mixed Pairs Provincial playdowns. This event will be preceded by the District 16 playdowns for mixed pairs. The ditch boards will be replaced for next season as well.
- vi. Goulbourn – The club’s report was delivered by Garry Ross. He spoke of the events held at the club during the season and indicated that there seems to be a decline in the number

of members from other clubs taking part. He reported that the club now has 71 members. He also reported that, while the greens had suffered some damage, repair to the greens is on-going and that the playing surface had been better by the end of the season.

- vii. Highland Park – The club report was presented by the club Tournament Coordinator who reported that the membership stood at 68 members. She said that the club had received a \$25,000 New Horizon grant for the purchase of new equipment. She also said that the regular coaching had been introduced for club members this season. She said that the club greens had suffered damages but that these had been repaired. She said that the club was in good financial shape.
- viii. Ottawa Short Mat – the report was presented by the club chair. He noted that this club will operate in the winter months. He said that the club uses borrowed equipment but hopes to have its own equipment provided that their request for a New Horizon grant is successful. The club has no members. Instead members of other clubs (10 – 12 or more of them) come to each session.
- ix. Iroquois – The club's report was presented by the club Secretary. She reported that the club uses a variety of methods to advertise its existence. She also noted that they intend to introduce croquet as an accompanying sport to bowls on their greens. The club is in the process of erecting a club house and efforts are being made to replace the lighting around the greens. She noted the events that took place at the club this season and, proudly noted her club members performances at various tournaments.
- x. Nepean – The club report was presented by its past president. He said that the club's focus this year had been in recruiting new member. The success of this effort was reflected in a sharp increase in membership. He also noted that the Nepean LBC celebrated its 30th year in operations and had a party to celebrate. The club has been able to get some new equipment as a result of a successful application for a New Horizon Grant. Next season the club intends to continue promoting itself and will seek to host two major tournaments.

Bill began his report by acknowledging the very good work that has been done over the years by Gerry Laporte. He said that Gerry's efforts had benefitted the sport of lawn bowling in District 16. He went on to say that he had been asked some months ago to work with a committee to select a District 16 Bowler of the year and to select a candidate for the Ottawa Sports Award. He reported that there had been six nominees for the award – Isabelle Dobbing, Iroquois; Alastair Lawrence, Nepean; Tom Sawyer, Highland Park; Kari Chant, Elmdale; Ann-Marie Waddell, Goulbourn; and, Rosemary McGuire, Deep River. Of these there were two front runners. One was Alastair Lawrence and the other was Kari Chant. Of these two the clear winner in the view of all three members of the committee was Kari Chant. Bill then described Kari's accomplishments through the season including work done as club vice-president, as a new and very active coach, as the author of a successful New Horizon grant with the objective of encouraging junior members, an organizer of a club charity tournament, extensive work done on club maintenance and is a well-respected and competitive bowler as well. René Boucher accepted the award on behalf of Kari. He read a note from Kari in which she thanked the District and her club for this honor and said that she looks forward to next season to continue working for the sport that she loves so well.

Gerry Laporte rose to remind the meeting that OLBA also has a Volunteer of the Year award called the Bill Boettger award. He suggested that the District nominees were all excellent and should be also be nominated by their clubs for the OLBA award.

b. Ottawa Sports Award lawn bowling nominee

Bill Rogers went on to report the Awards Committee selection of a nominee for the Ottawa Sports Award. He began by reminding the meeting of the prodigious nature of those who had received this award in the past. He said they constituted a band of Ottawa athletes who competed not only locally or in Provincial competitions but Nationally and even Worldwide. He said that this was an elitist circle of athletes. He then said that the Awards Committee's selection was a group rather than an individual. By unanimous consent the Committee had selected the Senior Women's Triples team consisting of Rosalie Parsons-Brown, Sandra Jefferies and Cheryl McBain. Bill went on to relate the

success that this team has enjoyed in this season's provincial competitions.

- c. Bill had made comments to the Chair of changes he would like to see made to the Awards Committee with the Board's agreement. The Chair suggested that he air his comments at this Fall meeting so that they could be considered through the winter with a decision possible at the Spring meeting. Bill agreed. He said that the committee had had some lively discussions about the appropriateness of having only one award considering that there are those who excel at the sport as competitors and those who put a great deal of time and effort as volunteers in making the sport better. The committee would like to see the District have three awards. The first would be for the most valuable volunteer in the district. The second award would be for a male bowler who turned in the best record of wins in District 16 events. The third would be for the female bowler who won the most District 16 competitions amongst the female bowlers. He went on to say that if this proposal was found acceptable at the Spring meeting he would be prepared to collect all the information on the competitions held at all the clubs through the district along with the information on District events and would have a system of awarding points for wins by gender and name. Consequently, at the end of the season the Awards Committee would be able to quickly assess the best in each gender of the competitive bowlers along with the best of the volunteer members. He drew a comparison between that is done in the sport of curling to what could be done in lawn bowling to the lawn bowling sport's benefit. The Chair congratulated the committee on its ideas and on the work, it had done and suggested that the committee bring well devised proposal to the Spring meeting which could easily be agreed and put into effect.

8. New Business

- a. OLBA Club Survey Results (James Rimmer)

The Chair thanked James Rimmer for coming to District 16 meetings and said that she was happy and very favorably impressed with the work that Mr. Rimmer has done at the OLBA Board generally and for District 16, in particular. Then she said that Mr. Rimmer would be telling the meeting about the results of a Survey of OLBA members that had been conducted earlier in the season.

Mr. Rimmer started his remarks by saying that the Nepean club had the most new members of any club in the province. He also said that the vitality of District 16 was something to be envied. As to the survey he said that there had been a good response from members in District 16. He went on to describe the characteristics of the District 16 bowler. The survey showed that members from District 16 were not impressed with the support the District receives from OLBA in member recruitment, in marketing or in coaching. He also noted that there was a clear gap on those who compete in their own clubs with those who feel comfortable competing in other clubs. He could see, as well, that there seemed to be a divide between this district and the rest of OLBA particularly in southern Ontario and this is something he wanted to remedy. He closed by saying that there was still \$2,000 in an OLBA fund for marketing. So, if any club had spent some cash on marketing, he could refund those expenses from that fund. He then invited questions.

Jane Baker remarked that the Nepean club opened up their greens at the beginning of the season two years ago to help members throughout the district to get an early start on the season and that Highland Park LBC followed up by allowing any member from the District to bowl at their club free of charge in the first month of the season. She hoped that this practice would be continued for the benefit of the bowlers in the district.

There was some additional discussion prompted by Pat Rose of Galetta and Denise Walker of Deep River concerning the lack of interest of some members to compete outside their club and the disconnect between District 16 and OLBA which seems to focus principally on southern Ontario. Mr., Rimmer noted that this disconnect might be resolved to some degree by a better newsletter more widely distributed.

Rico Silvestro wondered about the centralization of Provincial competitions. He wanted to see a wider distribution of those meets. Mr. Rimmer responded by saying that the selection of sites for Provincial competitions was on on-going discussion at OLBA. Every effort is being made to move these competitions around, but the distances and the lack of clubs volunteering their greens was making this difficult. The discussion carried on.

b. Nominations/election of officers

The Chair introduced Garry Ross, Past District Chair to conduct the election of new members of the District Board.

Garry began by saying that Isabelle Dobbing had agreed to be the new 2nd Vice Chair. However, there was no one who would be prepared to step into the role of 1st Vice Chair. He said that he had contacted a dozen and more people to take on this job and all had begged off pointing out that they were already fully committed. He said the need was for senior bowlers in the District to take on the task of governance in the District. He asked that all bowlers in the District give this issue some deep and serious thought. With that he presented his slate of officers for the coming year as follows:

Chair: Blaine Phillips

Past Chair: Flo Silvestro

1st Vice-Chair: Vacant

2nd Vice-Chair: Isabelle Dobbing

With the other members being appointed by the Board.

He then asked for a motion from the floor that nominations be closed.

Moved by Debbie Ferrill, seconded by Russell Oatman that nominations be closed.

Carried

At that the Chair, Flo Silvestro, passed the 'Black Book' to the incoming Chair, Blaine Phillips. The new Chair took the chair and immediately thanked Flo for the work she has done for the District, not only as Chair of its executive Board but also for all the other things she has done over the years. There was a warm round of applause.

9. District Spring and Fall Meeting Locations – 2020

The Chair reminded the meeting that the 2020 District meetings would be held as follows:

Spring: Highland Park LBC

Fall: Iroquois LBC

The Spring meeting would be held on April 25th at 10:00 in the morning, subject to the OLBA's scheduling of its own Spring Meeting. The Fall meeting would be held on September 26th.

10 Closing

a. The Chair thanked to host club for its hospitality and called for a motion to adjourn.

b. Moved by Jane Baker that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.