

OLBA District 16

SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Hosted by the Smiths Falls LBC

2017, April 29, 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was informed that the Chair, Wayne Harding, was admitted to hospital on Thursday, April 27th and was unable to chair this meeting. Consequently, the Past Chair, Jane Maloney, and the 1st Vice Chair, Garry Ross, jointly co-chaired the meeting.

Present:	Executive:	3	(plus 1 substitute –Secretary)
	Delegates:	13	(2 Delegates were also club delegates)
	Visitors	12	

1. Call to Order (*Jane Maloney*)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00. Ms Maloney informed the meeting of the situation with Wayne Harding who should have been chairing the meeting. She also reminded attendees to sign the register and suggested that each should sign a card which would be given to Mr. Harding as soon as appropriate.

2. Welcome by District Past Co-chair (*Jane Maloney*)

Ms. Maloney welcomed delegates and visitors attending the Spring Meeting. She then noted that the meeting secretary was a substitute and she introduced Wayne Daley. Mr. Daley noted for the meeting that he would be taking the minutes with the aid of a digital recorder which would help him make a proper recording of the meeting. Ms. Maloney then called on the host club to welcome the attendees

3. Welcome by Host Club (*Robert Ball*)

Mr. Ball, as the Smiths Falls LBC delegate, noted that he hadn't initially expected to act as host for the meeting, but circumstances required that this be done. He welcomed all delegates and visitors to the meeting.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Past Chair noted that she had a couple of extra copies of the Draft Agenda and of the Treasurer's report. She then said that Mr. David Jefferies would be speaking about the OLBA

Champion Committee, which would be added in under the Umpire's Report. This item would be an addition to the agenda. She then asked if there were other additions to the Agenda.

It was moved by David Smith (Elmdale) and seconded by Alice Keiwan (Nepean) that the Agenda with the addition be approved.

Motion Carried.

5. Moment of Silence (*Jane Maloney*)

The Past Chair asked that the attendees stand for a minute of silence for those who were no longer with us or who were incapacitated by illness. She also invited those who wished to mention specific club members who should be remembered along with their club. The names of Ron Haynes and John Fitzpatrick of Nepean were mentioned, as was Herb Sills of Highland Park and Malcolm Rose of Galetta.

6. Minutes of the 2016 Fall General Meeting (*Jane Maloney*)

The Past Chair noted that the minutes of the Fall General Meeting (2016) had been posted on the District 16 web site. It had also been thoroughly reviewed by herself, and the Chair, Wayne Harding and no errors or omissions had been found. She called for a motion of acceptance. It was moved by Flo Silvestro, seconded by Tony Bernard that the minutes be adopted.

Motion Carried

Business arising would be carried under New Business, Item 13.

7. Correspondence (*Jane Maloney*)

Ms. Maloney noted that the secretary had one piece of correspondence to report. Mr. Wayne Daley reported that the correspondence he had was an email from Barbara Stephens, the Board Secretary. He read the email which began with an apology for not being at the meeting but noted that her absence was the result of a severe injury. She hoped that she would still be bowling this season and she wished everyone good bowling. Mr. Daley then noted that Ms. Stephens would likely be continuing as secretary once her injury was healed.

8. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the District Treasurer, Ms. Maloney reviewed the financial documents that were submitted. She reviewed the Revenues, Expenses and Net Assets for the last season also noting the comparative results for the last four fiscal years submitted by the Treasurer. Then she turned her attention to the Income Statement for 2017/18. In particular she informed the meeting that the Handbooks for new bowlers would not be an expense since BCB was able to get substantial advertisements for the publication and could provide these handbooks to the Districts and clubs free of charge. As a result, this has meant a significant decrease in total costs and an increase in a projected net income by April 30th, 2018 of \$1,165.46. She stated that she was unable to give more than that for the Treasurer's Report. She invited questions or comments.

David Jefferies (Galetta) noted that the Board's previous Treasurer, Ms. Suzanne Erickson, had recently returned to the region and was interested in resuming her role as the Treasurer of the District. There was some discussion about the currently acting Treasurer being asked to step down in favour of Ms. Erickson and it was noted that the OLBA treasurer had been consulted on the viability of this action and could see no difficulty. A motion was then made by Gerry Laporte (Nepean), seconded by Rico Silvestro, to offer the position of Treasurer to Ms. Erickson effective immediately. The motion was put to a vote.

Motion Carried with one Abstention

The Past Chair went on to note that she had been speaking with the OLBA Treasurer and was told that each club would be charged an annual fee of \$31.00 which would be equally split between OLBA and BCB with each getting \$15.50. This is an increase of \$6.00 from the previous year when the annual fee was \$25.00.

9. Report of the District 1st Vice Chair – OLBA Meeting of April 22 (*Garry Ross*)

Ms. Maloney noted that there had been several members of District 16 who had attended the spring meeting and who could fill any blanks that might inadvertently be made.

Mr. Ross took the floor and reviewed the activity at the spring meeting beginning with the bylaw revisions noting that, amongst all the motions for revisions put forward, two had been put forward to the fall meeting for clarification of wording. He noted that BCB had made a very good presentation. The presentation covered all the activities that BCB was currently undertaking. Mr. Ross said that these projects are reported on the BCB website. He also noted that the Canada Day celebrations were given on page 191 of the Annual. It might be something to take a look at. He also noted that BCB is in the final stages of reviewing the rules covering competitions with the results of the review being available on the BCB website in May. BCB is also negotiating with the Olympics Committee with the goal of having Lawn Bowling being put forward as a 'test' sport at the next summer Olympics. Mr. Ross also said that the Conditions of Play had been reviewed at the meeting. This will be reviewed in the Umpire's Report. Then he mentioned the videos that are available on the BCB website with one showing an introduction to the sport; one demonstrating how the sport is played; and one focusing on the care and maintenance of the Greens. Mr. Ross then spoke of the awarding of the Volunteer of the Year certificate and how the recipient was Jane Maloney who received a great round of applause.

Ms. Maloney went on to say that the OLBA is interested in hiring an Executive Director and is in the process of establishing a Lawn Bowling Hall of Fame to honour the Champion Lawn Bowlers. She also noted that there are moves towards indoor bowling and short mat bowling which would seem to appeal to young people. Short mat bowling has challenges that are not as evident as full length bowling. She pointed out that Gerry Laporte had a short mat set up at the back of the meeting room and she encouraged everyone to give it a try.

10. Governor General's Tournament (*Tony Bernard*)

Tony Bernard took the floor and reported on the preparations for this season's Governor General's Tournament. The play downs will be at Elmdale on August 19/20th beginning at 9:00

a.m. The Tournament itself will be held at the Pierrefonds LBC near Montreal. There is a current bank balance of \$1,555.14. New medals are required for 2017 -22 at an estimated cost of \$1,000 which will be split with the Quebec Lawn Bowling Federation. The 2017 committee will meet by June to organize details in advertising, draw master, etc.

There was a question raised as to the lack of involvement of other districts in Ontario. Mr. Bernard stated that it has been the custom that the competition is between the Quebec clubs and the clubs of District 16. While there is nothing other than custom to prevent competitors from other clubs in Ontario the preparation of selecting a team from that many clubs would be very complex and time consuming.

11. Umpires' Report (*David Jefferies*)

Mr. Jefferies began his report by stating that there are some significant changes taking place for officiating. All umpires will be retested in such a way that any umpire can officiate anywhere in the world and at any level of competition. This retesting will be done first in southern Ontario by the OLBA Head Umpire, Jason Currie. Umpires in eastern Ontario will be tested in 2018. He went on to encourage anyone who wished to become an umpire to apply. Getting back to the retesting he noted that this action was to upgrade the quality of Ontario umpires. He noted a couple of examples of changes in officiating that were taking place.

He then went on to speak of the OLBA Championship committee and the new Conditions of Play that were produced by the committee. He went over several points in the new Conditions of Play including what was allowed and not allowed with cigarettes, alcohol, umbrellas, heat stress and weather. He noted that to officiate at the provincial play downs it will be necessary for the umpire to sign a form stating that he/she has read the new conditions of play thoroughly and is able to ensure that they are followed. Several comments were voiced concerning clothing. He also noted that there was a time limit of three hours to play a game. Games that were being played too slowly would be penalized. The re-spotting rule was also reviewed. At this time, a question was raised on whether any of these changes, which seemed to be for major competitions, would be put into effect for local competitions. Several clubs noted that they would be initiating these changes in local competitions. Mr. Jefferies said that these changes were coming and we might as well get used to them. He also noted that aids to bowling such as pushers must be supported by a doctor's certificate or the device would not be allowed unless it was Senior play downs. He also noted some changes that BCB is intending to put in place next year so that the number of bowls used for Fours and Triples would be reduced by one bowl. This will also help to speed up the game and make it more interesting. Through this presentation there were many comments and discussions.

Jane Maloney pointed out that, for those interested in reading the new Conditions of Play it is not available in the Annual, but is on the OLBA Website.

A question was raised concerning the setting of byes when a tournament has an uneven number of teams. The concern raised was that a team could arrive in the morning of the competition from a considerable distance only to find that they would not be playing until the afternoon. There was extensive discussion as to when and how the bye should be determined (in the days before the tournament or on the day of the tournament) and what to do if a team dropped out and the team that was awarded a bye was needed to compete. As the discussion continued it was clear

that there were two opposing points of view which represented the potential difficulties concerning a bye. Finally Dave Smith was asked to make a motion. His motion was that rules and procedures for distant play downs be standardized and published on the District 16 website. The motion was seconded by Tony Bernard. The motion was put to a vote.

Motion Carried with one Abstention

There was continued discussion concerning the rules and regulations and the suggestion that they be drafted by the district executive and posted to the website to be voted on at the fall meeting. The 1st Vice Chair also asked that those wishing to have input to this drafting do so by email by May 28th so that the district conveners would have something to refer to before the start of the district sponsored competitions.

12. Novice Day (*Jane Maloney*)

Novice day has been awarded to Brockville. The event will be held on Sunday, July 16th and will commence at 9:00 a.m. Jane Maloney will be the convener. Jane strongly urged that any club with new bowlers ensure that the bowlers take advantage of this event. The posters for the event are still at the home of Wayne Harding. They will be gathered up and sent to clubs as soon as possible.

The Past Chair went on to talk about membership stickers. Some clubs have them already. Other stickers are at Wayne Harding's home and will be sent out to the clubs as soon as is conveniently possible. The 1st Vice-Chair reminded the meeting that the reception of stickers is dependent on the payment of OLBA dues. He also noted that OLBA is becoming increasingly business conscience and that a club which has not paid its dues at the beginning of the season will be regarded as a club "not in good standing" and its players will not be able to compete in an out of club event.

13. New Business

a. 2017 Championship Format

The Past Chair informed the meeting that the championship format will revert to the 2015 format and the price per person will be increased to \$35 from \$25. The novice level will be \$25 for district play downs and \$30 for the Provincial events. The novice events have been advertised as being pairs events and will go forward for this year as pairs events.

b. District 16 Tournament Format – Timing Issues

In that this is part of the Conditions of Play that has been thoroughly covered by Dave Jefferies, it will be skipped.

c. Greens Keepers' Initiative (*Garry Ross*)

This was an idea floated by Wayne Harding which was very good but without the reasonably priced resources to carry it through. Unfortunately it must be put to one side.

d. **Player Development Camp.** (*Jane Maloney*)

The player development camp will take place on June 12th at the Almonte LBC. Registration will be at 8:30 a.m. There are flyers printed up for it which are also at Wayne Harding's home. These flyers will eventually be sent out to all the clubs. There are thirteen players signed up for the camp but more are needed. The cost is \$30 for each player and will be run by OLBA. The emphasis will be on judging the correct weight to be used in the delivery of the bowl. A question was asked as to why the camp couldn't be held on the weekend. The Past Chair said that the OLBA facilitator was available on weekends in May, not June. In 2018, the District should look at a camp on a May weekend.

e. **Crystal Mark III Booklet**

The Past Chair noted that she has had a request for a copy of the Crystal Mark III booklet which is available from the offices of BCB in Nepean. She would hope that there were more players who would like to get of copy. If there were fifty or more a special price would be available. Club representatives were asked to canvass their clubs to see if there was an interest in these booklets.

14. Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting will be held on September 30th at the Elmdale LBC.

15. Thanks to the Host Club (Garry Ross)

The 1st Vice Chair thanked the host club for their hospitality in hosting the spring meeting. There was a round of applause for the host club.

16. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Debbie Ferrill, 2nd Vice Chair, seconded by Alice Keiwan that the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Daley / Barbara Stephens