

OLBA District 16

FALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hosted by Nepean Lawn Bowls
At the Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean

2016 October 01, 10.00 a.m.

MINUTES

Present: Executive: 6
 Delegates: 17
 Visitors: 10

1. Opening Remarks

a. **Welcome by District Chair** (*Jane Maloney*)

Jane Maloney called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors and club delegates.
Jane invited all attendees to sign in.

b. **Welcome by Host Club** (*Frank Fanning*)

Frank Fanning welcomed delegates and visitors on behalf of Nepean Lawn Bowls.

c. **Moment of Silence** (*Jane Maloney*)

A moment of silence was observed in memory of those members who are no longer with us: Helen Morris (Highland Park); Ed Bousfield (Highland Park); Lew Barker (Galetta); Malcolm Rose (Galetta), Gayle Morris (Highland Park) and Wally Rowsome (Elmdale).

2. Adoption of the Agenda (*Jane Maloney*)

Heather Stevens pointed out that an item for “Adoption of the Agenda” should be added to the agenda (added herewith as item 2).

Jane noted that David Smith would be reporting on Awards (item 7) and Ruth Duffy would be presenting the nominations/election of officers (item 8a).

Rico Silvestro wished to add to the agenda an item for discussion on changes to format of Galetta Bowls District Tournaments in 2017: added as (item 8f).

Heather wished to add to the agenda “club new membership award recognition” which, Jane indicated, would be covered under “Awards” (item 7). Tessa MacKechnie hoped that “Proposed 2017 championships format”, would include the one minute timing issue (this was discussed under item 8f).

Jane invited a motion to adopt the Agenda as amended; moved by Heather Stevens (Highland Park) and seconded by Tessa MacKechnie (Highland Park).

MOTION CARRIED

3. Minutes of the 2016 Spring General Meeting

a. Errors and omissions

David Jefferies asked whether the error as noted in paragraph 7a had been corrected in the minutes of the 2015 Fall AGM; Barbara Stephens confirmed that the correction had been made.

b. Motion to adopt

Jane invited a motion to adopt the Minutes of the 2016 Spring General Meeting; moved by Tony Bernard and seconded by Frank Fanning.

MOTION CARRIED

c. Business arising

Jane noted that discussion on the implications of all the changes with the Canadian and the Ontario competitive streams will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Correspondence

Barbara reported that no correspondence had been received.

5. Treasurer's Report (*James Rimmer*)

Reporting on the Income Statement of 2016 May 01 to the present date, James Rimmer noted that the net loss was \$1,104.46 and money market was \$4.9k. The loss of \$1k was due to waiving the club fee. James noted that the District will be adjusting how it sells score cards and he invited delegates to approach any member of the Board regarding buying score cards.

In response to a question from Heather Stevens as to whether there was a proposal to institute a fee structure for this year, James noted that the fee structure was waived for one year only.

Jane noted that the OLBA was also revising the fee structure: According to the agenda for the OLBA meeting on October 15, there is an indication under the treasurer's report of an Announcement of Membership Dues and Related Fees for 2017, which states that OLBA membership fees will increase by \$6.00 in 2017 (this includes the \$2.00 BCB increase for 2016/2017 announced at the OLBA spring meeting)".

Jane invited a motion to adopt the Treasurer's report as presented; moved by David Smith (Elmdale) and seconded by Larry Myers (Nepean).

MOTION CARRIED

6. Reports

a. Report by the Governor General's Committee (*Tony Bernard*)

Tony Bernard thanked all the clubs who encouraged novice players this year. Tony noted that the Governor General's Committee actually made some money this year. He

acknowledged Senior Discovery Tours for giving the shirts and sponsoring the tournament this year, and noted that they wish to continue to do so indefinitely, which will help the Committee. Presenting the Financial Statement, Tony noted that the opening balance in May was \$1160.38, ending in a balance of \$1,705.24 as at 2016 September 24. Thus the committee will be starting off in a better financial situation next year than was the case this year.

Wayne Harding added that this year's Governor General's Tournament was held in Ontario at the Almonte Lawn Bowling Club. The playdowns and the tournament itself were very ably conducted by a committee comprised of trustees Tony Bernard, Joannie Marks and Gerry Laporte; the Almonte Governor General's Committee spearheaded by Denis Davignon, Al Jones and Wayne Harding; with Jane Maloney and Ruth Duffy providing guidance and encouragement. This year it was arranged to have the Ontario playdowns at Almonte, with Galetta on standby just in case we had a large number of entries. By the time the playdowns were held, we had 14 Novice Men's entries, 8 Novice Women's entries, 7 Men's Fours and 5 Women's Fours, and needed the greens at three clubs - Almonte, Galetta and Elmdale - in order to host all four events. The challenges to succeed with the playdowns spread out across the district were immense and Wayne wished to give a very sincere thankyou to Galetta's Jenny Bennett and Elmdale's Bob Elliott for stepping forward to act as convenors for the events held at their clubs. Wayne also wished to thank all of our district umpires who were all called upon to officiate at the playdowns and at the finals.

One point Wayne wished to make was that many of the novices were encouraged to enter the tournament even though they were fairly new to lawn bowling. The playdowns gave them a chance to experience bowling in a competitive environment for the first time but in competition with others with their own skills. Wayne was able to report that many of them found the experience not to their liking, but many others were now eager to develop their skills and plan to be back for more.

Following the Ontario playdowns, Ontario was represented at the Finals by Women's Fours teams skipped by Sandra Jefferies and Evanee Kenward, Men's Fours teams skipped by Rob Rienzo and Ted Tozer, and Novices Michelle Mackay and Derek Mckie. After some well-played games, Quebec captured the Fours whilst our novices brought home the gold.

Tony Bernard had provided a report on the financial side of the Governor General's Tournament. However, in closing, Wayne also wished to thank our sponsors, Senior Discovery Tours, and especially their representative, Aisling Keenan, for the support they provided. It was much appreciated and we look forward to their participation in the years to come.

Heather Stevens pointed out that the number of participants in the Governor General's Tournament was generally very low, considering that this is a tournament between two provinces. Tony agreed that this was a contentious issue in some organizations; the rules do acknowledge that participants are from Eastern Ontario (D.16) but any other group from Ontario can participate. Flo Silvestro believed the competition should be open to all in Ontario, noting that there have been participants from Kingston (D.15) in the past. Wayne acknowledged the issue and noted that this would be addressed by the trustees next year.

b. Report by the Marketing Committee (*Ruth Duffy*)

Ruth Duffy noted that whilst driving to the Governor General's Tournament, she heard the local news station talking about the tournament. However, the coverage was not good, as it displayed a poor understanding of lawn bowling. The news station reported that you cannot play until you are a retiree, and that you have to wear whites. Ruth pointed out that we need to get proper attention by the media if we are going to educate the public that it is a sport for life. Ruth did not think that getting the media's attention would work by doing it as an individual club - we should do it as a group; OLBA was not doing anything, but as a district we could do something to broaden the perception of lawn bowling. Unless we start doing this, some clubs will have to close. Clubs such as Prescott, Iroquois and Brockville, are struggling. Ruth intends to go to the media and tell them what lawn bowling is all about, then get them to come to the club to try it out.

Flo Barclay mentioned that Leanne Cusack of CJOH came to the club and interviewed Rob Rienzo and Gerry Laporte on the six o'clock news; the news station was mainly interested in the age of the oldest member of the club. Frank Fanning felt we had missed our chance this year by not inviting the media to the Governor General's Tournament. Nepean intends to engage the TV Stations to come to Nepean. Ruth mentioned that last year Jane Maloney had organized for Rogers TV station to do a filming at Highland Park LBC. Ruth added that the problem was that there were no spectators in what they were filming; she felt that laughter, fun and noise was needed, otherwise people think it's a boring sport. Therefore, it is important that we stop the perception that lawn bowling has to be quiet. Edith Pedden noted that BCB are live streaming a lot of their events now and wondered whether D.16 could get the Governor General's Tournament live streamed. Wayne Harding pointed out that you have to go to the BCB website before you can get to live streaming. Jane Maloney has been working hand in hand with BCB, who came to the green and were shown how lawn bowling can be fast paced. BCB proposes filming with drones above the green. Videotaped episodes, October 12, will be available for all bowlers to access on the BCB website. These will feature Jake Schuknecht delivering a bowl; also 2 rinks of new bowlers enjoying a Fours game. Jane invited James Rimmer to step up and say a few words about his experiences with the use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook, and its usefulness for spreading information. Frank Fanning passed a copy of a card advertising lawn bowling entitled "Don't know jack?" to Jane, which he suggested could be put on one's Facebook page. Larry Myers suggested that we should be targeting people retiring when we mention lawn bowling.

Ruth invited anyone who wished to be part of the Marketing Committee to let her know. The marketing initiative will be funded by the District.

c. Reports by District Clubs

Jane invited district clubs to give a brief summary of the year's activities:

Almonte:

Bob Thomson presented Almonte's report, on behalf of Al Jones, the current President. Bob noted that Almonte had just held its election, and Bob will be the next Chair.

Bob reported that 2016 was a great year for the Almonte Lawn Bowling Club. Early in the year the club received a \$95k Trillium grant, the largest ever awarded to an Ontario lawn bowling club. The grant allowed the club to upgrade its facilities and purchase new equipment.

Early in the year the club also introduced a “Player selection and appointment program” that facilitated the selection and appointment of skips and vices. The program greatly helped during the normal bowling season as they were able to quickly determine the number of skips and vices present to make up their randomly selected teams.

The club hosted two tournaments, the Centennial and the Doreen Morgan Memorial. Turnout for the Centennial was good with 42 players and the top winner was the rink of Evanee Kenward, John Kenward and Bob MacGregor. The Doreen Morgan Memorial tournament saw a full house registration of 48 players with the rink of Bill Aitken, Tessa MacKechnie and Heather Stevens taking top prize.

Also during the year for a period of three weeks the club introduced a training session before each game by its Coach demonstrating to members the most common lawn bowling hand signals. The intent of these sessions was to try and establish a consistent set of signals within the club. The program met with moderate success and will be tried again next year.

Ladies’ night was held in July and again was a success and well appreciated by the club ladies.

Almonte hosted the GG play-downs and the tournament which, by all comments, was a great success under sunny and blue skies. The club initiated a BBQ luncheon for non-players and officials and it was met with great enthusiasm. As a note, during the GG play-downs, Cecil Dubois of Almonte broke into the OLBA “Big Shot Club” with a perfect end. He was joined by two ladies from Almonte – Jan Peterson and Brenda Needham.

Almonte ended the year with 66 members, an increase of 13 new members.

Brockville:

Mary Willows reported that Brockville Club had a good year. The greens recovered quite nicely after the long, hot summer. The club hosted four tournaments, plus the “Bob Hanna” Senior Championship competition in September, all of which were well attended. The club now has 51 members, including eight new and younger members, and several “social” members. Brockville Club celebrated its 110th anniversary the weekend of May 24th. MPP Steven Clark was in attendance and presented a plaque of commemoration and a picture of Queen Elizabeth beautifully framed, which the club had asked for, as there was not one in the building.

Brockville Club’s president, Jane Parish, and her executive need commendation regarding the excellent publicity and exposure the club received this year. There is notably more awareness of the club’s presence in the city and communities, as some of the club’s newer members are some of the results. The club invited a high school group to come and have a ‘prep class’, which was well attended and appreciated, hopefully planting a little seed for the future. The club’s group of 20 or so ‘Special Needs’ members also seem very keen and

comfortable in their weekly games, and keep returning every new season. Mary expressed her best wishes to all clubs as they wrap up for the winter and prepare for a new season.

Deep River:

Barbara Stephens reported that membership in DRLBC had grown this year due to the success of its spring advertising campaign and a six weeks' Lawn Bowling Instruction Course offered to the general public. The club gained nine new members and now has 39 bowling members, compared to 21 in 2014 (a net increase of 82% over the two year period), plus ~15 social members. The increase in numbers has greatly enhanced participation in jitneys with 20 or more members regularly participating, and the green has been in excellent shape.

During the season the club hosted three invitational tournaments, one district play-down, the Renfrew County Senior Games' lawn bowling event, 10 in-house tournaments, three fun tournaments, three 6-week league sessions, four trivia nights, two fun nights, three club dinners, and an awards night. In addition, we hosted several outside groups for bowling and supper, a class of Grade 11 Phys. Ed. Students from the local school for four sessions of bowling, and weekly sessions of Social Bridge.

Weekly articles and photos were published in the local newspaper reporting club tournament results, bridge results and social events. The club has expanded its website to include photos. Copies of our marketing brochure were placed in central locations around Deep River, and the club's activities were advertised on sandwich boards at the Post Office.

Whereas we had predicted a deficit at the beginning of the season, DRLBC is in fact coming to the close of the season in a relatively good financial position. Income has exceeded expectations, due to the increase in membership, a successful yard sale at the beginning of the season, an increase in the numbers attending our weekly social bridge sessions, and donations received from outside groups coming to the club for bowling and social events. We made small economies where possible that have mounted up, such as making available a "refreshments fund box", which has collected donations to cover the cost of members' refreshments (tea and cookies after jitneys) throughout the season. In summary, DRLBC had a very successful and enjoyable year.

Elmdale:

Bob Elliott reported that Elmdale had a very successful year in terms of membership and activities. 2016 was a record year for Elmdale Lawn Bowling Club, as it welcomed 24 new members, one transfer from another club; and 3 members returning after a lengthy absence. These in addition to returning members and associate members resulted in a total membership of 78.

There were many factors contributing to the influx of new members that were similar to last year:

- A successful Open House in May, as a result of registration of visitors and follow up phone calls;
- coaching clinics during all of June enabling new bowlers to feel comfortable;
- the recruitment from the Royal Canadian Navy Curling Club due mainly to the efforts of one new member; and

- evening bowling to enable those members still working an opportunity to bowl. This year we bowled on Tuesday with fixed teams, and on Thursday evenings with an open draw.

In addition to these factors, we also made a dedicated effort to integrate new and experienced bowlers. This has proven beneficial to enhancing the performance of the new bowlers and offering them the opportunity to enjoy club activities.

We believe the future lies with attracting a younger generation of bowler, hence the four tournaments the club hosted this year were held on weekends, in order to provide an opportunity for participation. This coupled with evening bowling are two essential items to attract working members. In addition we also conducted an in-club novice tournament which proved very successful. Next year we are looking at expanding to Monday nights and possibly Sunday afternoons.

The Ottawa Croquet Club which shares our facility also welcomed 4 new members for a total of 17 members. Many of these have commented indicating how much they enjoyed the year, and Louis' coaching and encouragement. The croquet club offered evening play on Wednesdays, as many of the new members are also in the working category. The club also hosted a major tournament during the last weekend of July.

In addition to club activities, Elmdale continued to provide the bowling support to the Lawn Summer Nights charity event for Cystic Fibrosis. This event was held over four Wednesday nights in July and consisted of 40 four-person teams plus organising and support staff. This year was a successful event with many returning teams from previous years. Lawn Summer Nights added a 5th night in June this year; and while it proved successful in terms of funds raised, it did tax our volunteers. Many thanks to Gerry Laporte, and the Nepean club for the loan of additional sets of bowls required to support 16 rinks. Also thanks to the croquet club for moving their Wednesday night activity during July. In addition to this major event, the club hosted numerous smaller groups throughout the year. To date these activities have not produced new membership.

An encouraging sign this year was the return of many of the novice bowlers from the previous year with intended commitment to subsequent years. A key indicator of this is the volunteering of three of our newer members to participate on the executive board. Other changes to the executive include the retirement of three long standing members; Wally Kozar, Marilyn Meyers, and Heather Jarrett. David Smith will be taking over as president and Bob Elliott will assume the duties of match chair.

In summary, a very active year made possible by our hard working committees, and volunteers.

Galetta:

Galetta Bowls had a very successful year. We gained new members and have a total of 57. Our tournaments were well attended with the exception of our Mixed Fours. We plan to change the Mixed Fours to Mixed and Ladies' Pairs for next season. We bowl Monday and Friday morning, Tuesday evening is our marathon, Wednesday evening we play singles and Thursday is open play. We hold several in-house events.

Our club installed interlocking bricks on our walkway this year.

Several of our bowlers won district playdowns. Bill Sheffield, Bill Rogers (Elmdale) and Rob Jennings won silver at the Men's National Triples Stream in Belleville.

Goulbourn:

Ross Williamson reported that Goulbourn has gone through a fair amount of change this year. Its President, George Burns-Nichols became ill and had to retire, and Ross ended up with the job. Goulbourn has 68 members, including a few new ones. The club has done a lot of work on the greens, expanding it by 15 feet and putting in new boards around the entire green. By next year, Goulbourn should have a completely "green" green. Ross is looking forward to attending the District meetings in future.

Highland Park:

Jane Maloney thanked District bowlers for supporting Highland Park's four sponsored invitational tournaments. Jane's only regret was that they had not had a friendly between clubs in a long time. The current membership stood at 75, of which 58 were returning, 17 were new and 10 were social.

Jane added that some renovations are being done to the Highland Park clubhouse, due to the back of the building sinking. The club will continue with its yard sale at the beginning of May. Blaine Phillips has kept inspiring bowlers all year long, and invites bowlers to pub nights in the winter. Heather Stevens mentioned that one of the novices organizes social evenings also.

Iroquois:

Steve Kelly presented the Iroquois club report on behalf of Terry Triskle: The extended hot weather this past summer made our club members grateful for the fact that our play occurs only during the evening. However, we did send teams to participate in several district tournaments during the daytime and even had some of our newer members take part in tournament play. Unfortunately we were not able to persuade them to enter the novice tournaments – that will be a goal for next year.

With regard to the green, the new greens keeper attended to the regular mowing, with the remainder of maintenance activities being conducted by our members. We received several compliments from visitors on the condition of the green, which continues to improve as we slowly get the thatch problem under control. Ants remain an issue, especially in the later part of the season and this year we started to see some signs of the Japanese beetle which attracts birds to tear up the green in search of their lunch. This weekend we commenced putting the green to bed for the winter with an aeration and top dressing. Last fall we began an upgrade of the ditches by replacing the lumber on one side; this fall we hope to tackle the remaining sides – time, weather and dollars permitting.

Despite losing a few members due to illness again this season, our membership numbers improved from fifteen to twenty-two. In addition, we attracted some casual players – typically these are people who come and go from the adjacent public campground. To promote our sport while hoping to attract new members, we once again hosted high school students who participated as part of their sports field day. We continue to advertise the club

through an electronic media outlet located in a local restaurant; this is a very cost-effective method of promotion.

Financially, as in the past, we supplemented our revenues by providing a BBQ canteen at auctions and during an Iroquois community event; this type of fundraising also raises public awareness of our club. With the help of a small grant from the township we continued to operation in the black in 2016 although we do have some loans outstanding, one of which we managed to repay this season.

We believe that we had a very successful Open Triples tournament again this year; many thanks to the competitors from other clubs. A topic for discussion is whether to host a second tournament in 2017. Once again this year we held “home & home” friendlies with members from Prescott LBC and several of our members attended a friendly in Brockville. We closed our season on September 29 with the second ILBC annual windup potluck supper, which has grown in parallel with our membership. The club looks forward to seeing everyone on the greens next spring.

Nepean:

Frank Fanning reported that Nepean Lawn Bowls has 74 members and 18 social members; there were 11 new members, which the club kept. Frank thanked Wayne Harding for hosting Novice Day, which the novices thoroughly enjoyed. Nepean hosted the provincial pairs’ competition; tents and chairs were blown over due to high winds. This year, Nepean has decided not to increase membership fees, as finances are better than expected and the club ended up with a profit. The club does have a problem, however: when we sweep the green, we are picking up green. This should not happen for several years yet. Nepean has a partnership with the city and they wanted to rewrite the agreement. The club pays for half the green; if it were theirs they would pay for everything. Alice Keiwan is not going to be match chair, which is a great loss for the club. However, she has agreed to help next year.

Frank noted that the OLBA states that clubs are supposed to have a risk management officer – someone they can go to if there is a liability issue. If we have a risk manager, we must also have a risk policy; Frank Fanning is now Risk Management Officer for Nepean.

Prescott:

Mary Campbell was not able to be present but sent the following report:

The Prescott Lawn Bowling Club held another successful season this year. Our membership held at 19, attracting some new curlers and thus providing us with members on the “younger” end of the spectrum. Still, our oldest member is 86 and is a force to be reckoned with! We increased our membership fee with no repercussions on membership numbers.

We hosted 3 out of 4 of our tournaments, with fantastic attendance results. You may recall that one tournament was cancelled due to a neighbouring property owner driving a tractor down our greens to dig his fence posts two days before our tournament. Word spread quickly through the lawn bowling fraternity!

Many of our rookie and sophomore members participated in our tournaments, with one team comprised of both first year members winning one game high! Some of our sophomore members travelled to participate in a larger number of neighbouring club tournaments. We partnered with Iroquois in hosting home and away “friendly” tournaments, where we would

mix the members of both clubs together for a sporting and social evening. This will certainly continue next year.

Promoting and increasing membership will continue to be a high priority in the coming year. We received a New Horizons Grant this year, which provided us with new eaves-troughing, automatic sprinkler system, rakes, and bowls.

Please view our website, www.prescottlawnbowling.jimdo.com which is linked to those of the Town of Prescott and South Grenville Tourism.

Thanks to all who participate in our tournaments. It is our mission to keep our club active and a vibrant part of our community.

Smiths Falls:

Ruth Duffy reported that Smiths Falls LBC hosted five very successful tournaments this year, a special Olympics group and a summer camp group. Membership is dropping, mostly due to age, and Smiths Falls is a community that is not increasing. The club has applied for a grant to change the boards next year, which will make the green a little smaller. The club itself is doing well; the members are hardworking and participate in everything.

d. Report by District Chair (*Jane Maloney*)

Jane noted that it has been a privilege to serve as District 16 Chair during a very busy past year. She wished to acknowledge the help and support of the District Executive and appreciated the many bowlers and clubs for their honest insight, sharing of ideas, and their passion for our sport. Jane also thanked David Jefferies, our Head Umpire; Joannie Marks, Tony Bernard, and Gerry LaPorte, the Governor General's Trustees; John Stevenson, our Scheduler; Gerry LaPorte, Elmer Janzen, and David Smith forming this years' Awards Committee.

Jane noted events our District excels at and are noteworthy: May's Skip Development Camp hosted by Nepean was well attended; our District is truly well represented with voting delegates at OLBA's AGM; July's long weekend was the CCS Ontario East Provincial Pairs hosted at Nepean. It started with a bang – a destructive downburst Friday night and ended up a glorious success by Sunday evening. August saw Almonte's spectacular transformation and hosting of the Governor Generals. Despite the heat, bowlers were very busy entering competitions at all levels of play.

However, there exist challenges. Solutions must be found to an ever growing difficulty in retention of new bowlers. Correction of novice bowlers can be publically embarrassing and although it may be well intentioned, it will drive any bowler away. A finger pointed at someone requires at least 3 fingers pointed back at yourself. At the club level, when our recreational bowlers come out for a good time and meet up on the green with our avid and exacting competitive bowlers, remember it's about having fun and that there is a certain magic to that.

In concluding, Jane reported that she had received a personal note from Derek McKie, a novice bowler from Woodstock who was absolutely thrilled to have bowled in our District. Derek returned home as the Novice Men's Governor Generals' winner. He went on to say

how welcoming everyone was, even though they were from a wide variety of clubs, and that as District Chair, I should be very happy with the cohesion between the clubs and how all the members presented themselves.

Wayne Harding and John Stevenson will be working on the 2017 schedule with all the clubs.

e. Umpires' report (*David Jefferies*)

David Jefferies reported that District 16 has three new provincial umpires (L2): Bill Sheffield, Garry Ross and Wayne Harding. The District lost Malcolm Rose. David also noted that Patricia Rose suffered a heart attack in July and was awaiting an operation; David expressed best wishes to Patricia on behalf of all the meeting delegates.

David indicated that anyone wishing to become an umpire should consult the OLBA Annual and contact Moe Cosyn for information. David was happy to note that Deep River LBC acquired an umpire this year (Wayne Daley).

7. Awards (*David Smith*)

a. District Lawn Bowler of the Year award

David Smith announced that, based on a combination of volunteerism and performance, Blaine Phillips was the winner of the District Lawn Bowler of the Year Award for 2016, selected from five nominations.

b. Ottawa Sports Award lawn bowling nominee

David also announced that Bill Sheffield has been nominated for the Ottawa Sports Award following a very active and successful lawn bowling season. Amongst other things, Bill won Silver at the Men's National Triples Stream in Belleville this year (together with Bill Rogers and Rob Jennings).

Prompted by a question from Heather Stevens regarding the new members' award, Jane Maloney noted that at the provincial level last autumn, District 16 was acknowledged as having the highest percentage of new members in OLBA. District 16 was given a crest, which will be posted on the website.

8. New Business

a. Nominations/election of officers (*Ruth Duffy*)

Ruth Duffy presented the following slate of nominations for election of officers, calling three times for new nominations:

Chair:	Wayne Harding
Past Chair:	Jane Maloney
1 st Vice-Chair:	Garry Ross
2 nd Vice-Chair:	Debbie Ferrill
Treasurer:	James Rimmer (appointed by the Board)
Secretary:	Barbara Stephens
Scheduler:	John Stevenson (nominated by the Board)

There were no new nominations from the floor. Ruth moved that nominations be closed. The slate of officers was elected by acclamation. Jane Maloney welcomed Wayne Harding as new chair.

Ruth took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support. She really enjoyed her position on the executive and encouraged members to apply for positions on the Board in the future.

- b. **District representative at OLBA Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 meetings** (*Wayne Harding*)
Wayne reported that we had managed to get proxies covering all the District clubs for voting at the OLBA Fall meeting.

- c. **Results of review of 2016 championships format** (*Jane Maloney*)
Jane had participated in three conference calls during the season with District Chairs to formulate recommendations on the championships format to send to the OLBA Board and to review recommendations coming back from the OLBA. If anyone was interested in reviewing the file on this subject, Jane had brought it to the meeting. Jane noted that our District came out fairly neutral: the number of entries that we had for both streams matched what we did in 2015. Jane thanked Wayne Harding for producing, and Ruth Duffy for getting out, the yellow posters setting out details under the 2016 format of the OLBA District Playdowns, the District 16 Championships, the 88th Governor Generals, the Novices Tournaments and Novice Day, so that they were easy to follow. Jane also thanked the District bowlers for participating as fully as we were able in both the Canadian Stream and the new Ontario Stream. Jane noted that the number of total OLBA entries went down by 161. In terms of finances and entries province wide, this one year trial was a disaster.

- d. **Proposed 2017 championships format** (*Jane Maloney*)
Jane reported that the District Chairs came up with some good proposals for the 2017 championships format and these were presented to the OLBA Board early September. As of September 30, OLBA has provided us with their feedback that will be voted on at the OLBA Fall AGM on October 15. OLBA have elaborated on four different playdown models. The OLBA Executive proposal is to implement the Canadian Championships as done in 2015. It would be a 12-week format, with three weeks in that timeframe open to each District to hold its own Invitational tournaments.

OLBA's total championship expenses in 2017 are estimated to be ~\$66,000, whilst revenues are estimated at ~\$61,000, so the OLBA only has to absorb ~\$5,000. The greens rental fees included in this estimate are \$300 for a single green and \$550 (x 6) for double greens. These proposals are based on old numbers when Ontario had 10,000 bowlers to sustain this structure. We now have ~6,700 members in Ontario. We are the first District to have this information.

Edith Pedden added that this proposal would have minor changes. It would be finalized and made available on the OLBA website in the next few days. Edith was doubtful that this proposal would be accepted. Jane thanked Edith for her comments.

e. **New Initiative** (*Wayne Harding*)

Wayne Harding noted that, since all clubs in the District have problems with their greens, he has come up with a new initiative to assist in this matter:

Andy Caldwell is the greens keeper for the Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club and is also the chair of the OLBA greens committee. Andy's greens at Peterborough are well known as being in excellent condition and we thought it might be beneficial if we could have Andy visit us early next summer to meet with our greens keepers and visit several of our greens to discuss the greens and how to improve them. Andy has been contacted and thinks this would be feasible. He is currently discussing this with other committee members and we intend to discuss it further at the OLBA meeting and over the winter.

While no specifics have been discussed Wayne is proposing that we host Andy for a 2-day visit during which he and our greens keepers can visit several greens. Wayne's hope is that by visiting a few of our greens all the keepers will be able to discuss issues that are common to the greens in our region and will be able to take any insights and ideas back to their own clubs. Wayne thinks it is important to note that the sessions will be primarily to for the benefit the greens keepers and it will be solely at their discretion what they take back to their clubs.

Further information on this initiative will be made available once discussions have progressed. The initiative will be funded by the District.

f. **Galetta Bowls District Tournaments Format in 2017** (*Rico Silvestro*)

Following the Galetta Bowls Fall Meeting, Rico Silvestro wished to bring the following information forward for discussion:

At Galetta Bowls District Tournaments next year, there will be:

- i. No dead ends – the jack will be placed on the 2-metre mark.
- ii. One visit to the head per end – Skip only.
- iii. Time limits on all games.

Rico thought that other clubs might consider doing the same. Comments concerning the time used to play a game have been made frequently this year. In response to a question from Jane concerning time frames for games of 12 or 14 ends, David Smith responded that 2-hours is normally allowed for 12-end games, and Wayne Harding commented that he had seen 2¼ hours. David thought there should also be a time limit for visiting the head. Garry Ross felt there was a need for coaches to teach etiquette in this respect, as the rule is that a bowler should be ready to bowl. Bill Sheffield felt that it was up to the skips and players on the teams to say when timing was unacceptable, and Tony Bernard agreed with Bill. Debbie Ferrill noted that Heather Stevens was going to bring this point up (Heather had left the meeting due to ill health). Tessa MacKechnie pointed out that sometimes, depending on a bowler's disability, one minute to visit the head can be short. David did not think that in such circumstances convenors would lay this down as law; we would just recommend this strategy to everyone. Bill wondered what the penalty would be if he took five minutes to visit the head, to which Rico replied that he would not score on his end.

Summarizing the discussion, Wayne noted that everyone agrees that tournaments are getting longer. He suggested that clubs themselves should come up with ideas to put in place some rules, which can be discussed again.

9. District Spring and Fall Meetings 2017

Dates and venues of District 16 meetings in 2017 are as follows:

Spring General Meeting:	2017 April 29, Smiths Falls LBC
Fall Annual General Meeting:	2017 October 07, Elmdale LBC

10. Thanks to Host Club (*Wayne Harding*)

On behalf of the Executive, Wayne thanked Nepean Lawn Bowls and its members for hosting the Fall Annual General Meeting.

11. Motion to Adjourn (*Wayne Harding*)

The meeting adjourned at 12.15 p.m. Moved by Rico Silvestro; seconded by Blaine Phillips.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stephens
Secretary, District 16

2016 October 30