



BOWLS CANADA BOULINGRIN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 24, 2023
Virtual Meeting via zoom
5:00 pm EST – 6:10 pm EDT

Bowls Canada Boulingrin is the governing body responsible for lawn bowls in Canada and our mission is to provide leadership that facilitates inclusive participation and excellence for the sport of lawn bowls in Canada.

DRAFT MINUTES

Bowls Canada Members' Representatives:

Lynn Chwartacki	Bowls British Columbia,
Joy White	Bowls Alberta, President
Michael Pituley	Bowls Saskatchewan, Vice-President
Bob Arthur	Bowls Manitoba
Ralph Ellis	Ontario Lawn Bowls Association, President
Anne Morissette	Quebec Lawn Bowling Federation, Director
Cameron Lefresne	Lawn Bowls Nova Scotia, President
Gloria McLaughlin	Bowls New Brunswick Boulingrin, President

Bowls Canada Board:

Kathryn MacGregor	Chair
Anne Mathewson	Secretary
Dennis Verge	Treasurer
Phillip Francis	Directors
Derek McKie	Director
Chris Stadnyk	Director

Regrets: Laura Seed	Director
Foch McNally	Prince Edward Island Lawn Bowls Association, President

Guest Observers:

Ian Howard, World Bowls
OLBA Directors: **Nan Hendren, Karen Atkin**,
Senior Staff of PSOs: **Scott Kramble AB**

Bowls Canada Staff:

Anna Mees, CEO | **Jake Schuknecht**, Bowls Development Manger | **Don Caswell HP**
Manager

Introduction

The meeting was opened with the following acknowledgement:

We begin today by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. While we meet today on a virtual platform, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the lands, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this land home. We also acknowledge that the land on which our national office resides is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabe People.

1. Roll Call of Members and Credentials Committee

- Chair Kathryn MacGregor called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm EDT. A roll-call of delegates was completed. Kathryn MacGregor introduced the board members present.

2. Period of Remembrance

- A minute of silence was held to remember all those from our Lawn Bowls community who had passed away since the last AGM.

3. Establishment of Quorum and Appointment of Scrutineers

- Quorum was established with sufficient representatives from all provinces. The scrutineers were appointed.

MOTION 1	Mover/Seconder: Ralph Ellis/Gloria McLaughlin
That Jake Schuknecht and Don Caswell be appointed to serve as scrutineers.	
	Result: Carried

4. Introduction of Guests and Board Members

- Kathryn MacGregor introduced the following guests:
 - Ian Howard, World Bowls
 - OLBA Directors: **Nan Hendren, Karen Atkin**
 - New Director Candidates: **John Aveline, Jane Blaine**
 - Senior Staff of PSOs: **Scott Kramble, AB**

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2	Mover/Seconder: Ralph Ellis/Lynn Chwartacki
That the agenda be accepted as modified to reverse the first two items under New Business.	
	Result: Carried

6. Declaration of any Conflicts of Interest for Voting Delegates

- Apart from the leadership position each members holds within their respective Provincial Associations, conflicts were declared by the following members: Cameron Lefresne (National

Team member), Lynn Chwartacki (National Championship competitor) and Joy White (National Championship competitor).

7. Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual General Meeting

- The Chair called for discussion regarding the 2022 AGM minutes.

MOTION 3	Mover/Second: Ralph Ellis/Cameron Lefresne
That the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated.	
	Results: Carried

8. Chair’s Address and Report

- The following report was shared by Kathryn MacGregor:

“2022 represented our first foray back into competitive play with a return to national championship formats and performances by Canadian athletes at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in England. We also saw Canadians return to the lawn bowls greens across the country to experience a more ‘normalized’ way of playing.

Overall, 2022 membership seemed to rebound with some provinces representing rapid growth that exceeded 2019 rates coming out of pandemic while others recovered but not quite all the way to pre-pandemic states. This past fiscal year the organization has grappled with the reality that new ways of doing business at all levels will be required to ensure that lawn bowls survives and thrives into the future. New online resources were made available to clubs and PSOs to help enhance governance at the local and provincial levels. Online governance training created by CCES and Sport Law was available free of charge through BCB for all PSO Directors was available through last fiscal and continues to be available today. BCB Directors all complete this training and it is highly recommended to help empower PSO Directors.

BCB became a signatory of Abuse Free Sport in March 2023 and all national participants have consented to be subjected to the Universal Code of Conduct to prevent Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). In 2022 BCB ran our first ever Para Championships and this past summer we had our first national team selection for para athletes with the goal of sending athletes to World IBD Championships next spring. We launched the new Strategic Plan this year and with it a new tool to help the organization report back to you the members on how it is progressing on an annual basis. I am happy to report that this fall, Bowls Canada will be releasing the new marketing strategy aimed at growing participation for the 2024 outdoor season. The goal is that increasing the participation base will lead to an increase member base and competitor base.

As we are all aware Anna announced her retirement after 10 years of leadership and dedication to Bowls Canada Boulingrin. A Recruiting Hiring Task Force has been created. The Committee is made up of Board members – Dennis Verge - Treasurer, Anne Mathewson - Secretary, Director, Phillip Francis and outgoing Chair, Kathryn MacGregor. The Task Force Committee has hired Sport Law and Strategy Group to assist in the recruitment process.

As always, we are extremely grateful to the many people and associations who contribute to Bowls Canada including the Government of Canada, our sponsors and the many donors who helped support the organization over the last year.

It has been an honour to represent Bowls Canada Boulingrin as your Chair of the Board of Directors for the past 3 years. Thank you! I am very proud of our Staff lead by the outstanding leadership of Anna Mees and the Members of the Board for the many new programs and initiatives which have been put in place since I joined the Board 6 years ago. To name a few: the club accreditation program “Belonging in Bowls”; the inclusion and diversification of membership in the Para Bowls “Just Roll with It” program; the development and strengthening of our Governance adherence strategy which included revised Bylaws, two new Strategic Plans and the UCCMS Abuse Free Safe Sport Policies. Our Bowls Clubs were provided with the Club in a Box business management program, an updated Green’s Manual and an Online Store with e-learning tools. Gender Equity and Diversity workshop were held across Canada to support woman coaching, officiating and leadership in sport. There were challenges and successes. Bowls Canada remained nimble and pivoted when the COVID pandemic closed our clubs. However, through Government pandemic relief funding our clubs have emerged successfully with increased membership and our Team Canada has shown through hard work, commitment and dedication we can reach the Podium.

I wish for much success in the coming years to the Bowls Canada Board of Directors, staff and member organizations!”

Delegates were given an opportunity to ask questions:

- Thanks were extended to Kathryn MacGregor for her leadership as Chair over the past several years.

MOTION 4	Mover/Seconder: Joy White/Anne Morissette
That the Chair’s Report be accepted as presented.	Result: Carried

9. CEO’s Address and Report

- Congratulations to the 2023 World Bowls Team for a best ever result of four medals: Men’s Singles Gold Ryan Bester; Women’s Singles Silver Kelly McKerihen; Women’s Triples Bronze Emma Boyd, Baylee VanSteijn, Joanna Cooper; and Men’s Pairs Bronze Ryan Bester, John Bezear.
- The annual report was submitted as the CEO’s report.
- 2022-23 represented some extraordinary costs: Post-Pandemic inflation in travel and accommodations; Commonwealth Games no longer funded; Increased costs at Nationals to deal with potential and actual Covid issues
- Anna expressed “thank you” to the organization and delegates for ten wonderful years in the CEO role.

Delegates were given an opportunity to ask further questions:

- Thanks were extended to Anna Mees for her leadership over the past decade.

MOTION 5	Mover/Seconder: Cameron Lefresne/Gloria McLaughlin
That the CEO’s Report be accepted as presented.	Results: Carried

10. Treasurers Report and Financial Statements

- The following financial documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
 - BCB Final Statements 2023
 - Treasurer's Report 2023
 - BCB Investment Funds Report 2023
 - 2023-24 Budget Approved
 - 2023-24 Approved Plan

- Bowls Canada Treasurer Dennis Verge shared that he had reviewed the financial statements in collaboration with the Audit and Finance Committee in his role as chair of the committee. The Committee agreed the statements are an accurate financial representation of Bowls Canada Bowlingrin for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023 and as such the statements were accepted by the Board. Other notes included:
 - The Statement of Financial Position reflects some extraordinary costs incurred by BCB in high performance and domestic competitions. These will be covered in detail by the CEO report. There was a decrease in net assets 31K.
 - BCB maintains an overall favourable financial position as assets over the past three years have increased 10K.
 - Changes in BCB financial policy allowed the transfer from restricted funds (gift fund) to unrestricted funds to allow for their use as required.

- Dennis also noted in the Annual Investment Report the following:
 - Our investments were relatively flat over the year and mirrored the financial markets.
 - The goal for long term investments continues to maintain a ratio of 70% equity and 30% fixed income as recommended by the BCB financial advisors and supported by the BCB Board.
 - For short term investments, GIC's rates continue to rise as a result of rising interest rates. BCB has been able to take advantage of rates in excess of 5% when they came due.

- Dennis shared highlights of the 2023-24 Operational Budget and Plan:
 - Continued effort on empowering members and their stakeholders to recruit and retain bowlers across Canada while remaining a compliant, competitive and recognized NSO
 - In particular, there is a focus on:
 - Implementing new governance processes and empowering stakeholders
 - Maintaining Abuse Free Sport compliance requirements
 - Developing Belonging in Bowls Pillars: Club Development, Accessibility, Marketing & Communications
 - Participating in World Bowls 2023
 - Initiating new Strategic Plan implementation
 - Launching new marketing strategy
 - Managing risk and liability in all areas of operations; and
 - Communication and engagement through virtual mediums

Delegates were given an opportunity to ask further questions and make comments:

- No questions were raised.

MOTION 6	Moved/Seconded: Ralph Ellis/Anne Morissette
That the financial reports, including the Auditors' Report be accepted as presented.	
Results: Carried	

11. Auditors Report and Appointment of Auditors

- Dennis Verge confirmed that our Auditors, Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep, have presented an unqualified opinion that the Financial Statements are an accurate representation of the events for the period ending March 31, 2023. On behalf of the Board, he recommended the appointment of Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP as BCB auditors for fiscal year ending 2023-2024.

MOTION 7	Moved/Seconded: Ralph Ellis/Gloria McLaughlin
That the auditing firm of Ouseley, Hanvey, Clipsham Deep LLP be retained as Bowls Canada auditors to complete the audit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.	
Results: Carried	

12. Other Reports

Provincial Reports were circulated in the AGM Meeting Package as submitted.

- AB hosted two very successful national competitions; thanks to the many volunteers and BCB's support.
- MB: Increase in bowler activity, especially in Brandon and Gimli; some unfilled Board positions (MB's written report has not yet been received). Women's Fours performed well at Nationals.
- OLBA: Still waiting for some clubs to report membership numbers. Will be up to 700-1,000 new members (net) once all the numbers are in; expecting same results for the next 3 years.
- NB: A lot of members are disappointed that Mixed Pairs will not be a national competition. Feedback from the Para Bowls competition: it was extraordinary and well supported.

Delegates were given an opportunity to ask further questions: No questions were asked

MOTION 8	Moved/Seconded Gloria McLaughlin/Lynn Chwartacki
To accept all provincial reports as submitted.	
Results: Carried	

13. Amendments to the Bylaws

No amendments to the Bylaws were presented at this meeting. It was noted that new amendments will be forthcoming at next year's AGM to comply with the new Canadian Governance Code for national sport organizations.

14. Elections to the Board of Directors

- The nominations report was made available in advance of the meeting.
- As outlined in the by-laws, the Board is composed of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 9 Directors. Based on the transition plan to the new term of three year and the resignation of

Directors over the last year, the following vacancies were available to join Chris Stadnyk, Anne Mathewson and Derek McKie:

- Up to three 3-year terms
- Up to three 1-year terms
- The following candidates stood for election:
 - Incumbents Dennis Verge, Phillip Francis and Laura Seed
 - New applicants Jane Blaine and John Aveline
- As there were more terms available than candidates, the Nominations Committee reviewed the skills and experience of the candidates against the existing Directors to recommend the following slate:
 - Three 3-year terms: Dennis Verge, Phillip Francis, Jane Blaine
 - Two 1-year terms: Laura Seed and John Aveline

MOTION 9	Moved/Seconded: Anne Morissette/Ralph Ellis
That the recommended slate of Directors be accepted as presented.	
	Results: Carried

- Congratulations to all incoming Directors.

15. New Business

- The new Marketing Strategy (“It’s a Little Different”) was presented to the membership
 - Comments: ON: Nice geolocation feature; ON has discouraged pay-for-play and prefers Nutana (Saskatoon’s) program.
 - MB’s B3 event was very successful.
- The PSOs identified their representatives to the National Championships Review Task Force as follows:
 - BC: not identified
 - AB: not identified
 - SK: Mike Pituley
 - MB: not identified
 - ON: Steve Schuknecht
 - QC: Bruce St. Louis
 - NB: Christopher Lane
 - NS: not identified
 - PEI: not present
 - Comments: host bidding deadline has been extended to Oct. 15th; no bids have been received to date.

Adjournment

With no other business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. EDT