



# **BOWLS CANADA BOULINGRIN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

September 28, 2025  
Virtual Meeting via zoom  
3:00 pm EDT – 4:07 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:**

<b>Harry Carruthers</b>	Bowls British Columbia, President
<b>Claire Day</b>	Bowls Alberta, President
<b>Gary Laurence</b>	Bowls Saskatchewan, President
<b>Karen Atkin</b>	Ontario Lawn Bowls Association, President
<b>John Delvin</b>	Quebec Lawn Bowling Federation, Representative
<b>Neil Graham</b>	Bowls New Brunswick Boulingrin, President

### **Bowls Canada Board:**

<b>Anne Mathewson</b>	Chair
<b>Derek McKie</b>	Secretary
<b>Dennis Verge</b>	Treasurer
<b>Phillip Francis</b>	Director
<b>Laura Seed</b>	Director
<b>Jane Blaine</b>	Director
<b>Chris Stadnyk</b>	Director

### **Guest Observers:**

Senior Staff of PSOs: **Kevin Goheen** OLBA

### **Bowls Canada Staff:**

**Britany Gordon**, CEO | **William Mulcahy**, Technical Manger

**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 Anne Mathewson called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. A roll-call of delegates was completed. Anne Mathewson 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 not established with sufficient representatives from all provinces. The scrutineers were appointed.

<b>MOTION 1</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Gary L./Karen A.</b>
That William Mulcahy be appointed to serve as scrutineer.		<b>Result: Carried</b>

**4. Introduction of Guests and Board Members**

- Anne Mathewson introduced the following guests:  
Senior Staff of PSOs: **Kevin Goheen** OLBA

**5. Approval of Agenda**

<b>MOTION 2</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Karen A. / Claire D.</b>
That the agenda be accepted as presented.		<b>Result: Carried</b>

**6. Declaration of any Conflicts of Interest for Voting Delegates**

- List any identified conflicts: e.g. It was recognized that each delegate holds a leadership position within their respective Provincial Associations NONE

**7. Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual General Meeting**

- The Chair called for discussion regarding the 2024 AGM minutes.

<b>MOTION 3</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Harry C. / Claire D.</b>
That the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated.		
<b>Results: Carried</b>		

**8. Chair’s Address and Report**

- The following report was shared by Anne Mathewson:
  - Much more stable year. Britany has been here for a full-year now. She has provided financial aptitude and leadership in governance matters, including dealing with Sport Canada.
  - Jake left; Will hired
  - Sport Canada funding delayed and then slightly cut. However, funding guidance has been given a couple years into the future.
  - Thank you to everyone who sits on all BCB Committees and all those have volunteered for us.

**Delegates were given an opportunity to ask questions:**

- No questions.

<b>MOTION 4</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Harry C. / Gary L.</b>
That the Chair’s Report be accepted as presented.		
<b>Result: Carried</b>		

**9. CEO’s Address and Report**

- The annual report was submitted as the CEO’s report.

**Delegates were given an opportunity to ask further questions:**

- No questions.

<b>MOTION 5</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Gary L. / Neil G.</b>
That the CEO’s Report be accepted as presented.		
<b>Results: Carried</b>		

**10. Treasurers Report and Financial Statements**

- The following financial documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
  - BCB Final Statements 2025
  - Treasurer’s Report 2025
  - BCB Investment Funds Report 2025
  - 2025-26 Budget Approved

- 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 Boulingrin for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, and as such the statements were accepted by the Board. Other notes included:
  - Small profit was made.
- Dennis also noted in the Annual Investment Report the following:
  - Income in bond funds showed a small recovery. Equities continued to grow and it is continuing to grow this year. GIC's at 5% continue to make money. This will likely decline moving forward.

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

- No questions.

<b>MOTION 6</b>	<b>Mover/Second</b>	Gary L. / Karen A.
That the financial reports, including the Auditors' Report be accepted as presented.		
<b>Results: Carried</b>		

**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, 2025. On behalf of the Board, he recommended the appointment of Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP as BCB auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

<b>MOTION 7</b>	<b>Mover/Second</b>	<b>Karen A. / Harry C.</b>
That the auditing firm of Ouseley, Hanvey, Clipsham Deep LLP be retained as Bowls Canada auditors to complete the audit for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.		
<b>Results: Carried</b>		

**12. Other Reports**

- Provincial Reports were circulated in the AGM Meeting Package as submitted. Britany noted we will change the reporting membership numbers system. Provincial Associations will report 2025 membership numbers at 2026 AGM.
- Comments:
- Questions:
  - Karen A: Getting reporting form out in June is helpful. However, would like to know what data BCB would like before the season starts? Britany noted she can let provinces know in January.
  - Harry C: BC can have report from 2024 numbers in a couple days. Britany said to still report this year's numbers and even if that takes a bit more time, that is fine.
  - Karen A: Do you need OLBA to submit 2024 numbers again, instead of 2025 numbers just submitted? Britany said no.

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

<b>MOTION 8</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Neil G. / Gary L.</b>
To accept all provincial reports as submitted.		<b>Results: Carried</b>

### 13. Amendments to the Bylaws

- Proposal to Add an Athlete Director to the Bowls Canada Board of Directors
- 1. Purpose  
This proposal recommends the addition of one seat on the Bowls Canada Board of Directors to be designated as the Athlete Director, ensuring athletes have a direct voice in national governance and strategy. The proposal outlines rationale, precedent, and necessary bylaw changes to implement this new position.
- 2. Background & Rationale  
Including an Athlete Director aligns with governance best practices and ensures Bowls Canada meets evolving expectations for athlete representation in decision-making. Direct athlete input at the Board level strengthens accountability, supports more athlete-centred decision-making, and aligns with the strategic direction of high-performance sport in Canada.  
Sport Canada Requirement  
Sport Canada now requires National Sport Organizations (NSOs) to include formal athlete representation at the Board level as part of their core funding and governance standards. Establishing an Athlete Director position will ensure Bowls Canada remains compliant with this expectation and is eligible for continued federal support.

<b>MOTION 9:</b>	<b>Mover/Seconder</b>	<b>Harry C. / Gary L.</b>
<i>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bylaws of Bowls Canada Boulingrin be amended as follows:</i>		
1. <i>Section 4.1 (Number of Directors) be amended to state:</i> <i>“The Board shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) Directors, including one Director designated as the ‘Athlete Director.’”</i>		
2. <i>Section 4.2 (Terms) be amended to add:</i> <i>“The Athlete Director shall serve a three-year term, ending at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting for the final year of the Athlete Director’s term, unless the Athlete Director resigns, or is removed from or vacates their office.”</i>		
3. <i>A new Section 4.6 (Athlete Director) be added, outlining the eligibility, election, and appointment process for the Athlete Director, as attached in Appendix A.</i>		
		<b>Results: Carried 6-0</b>

NOTE: these bylaw changes require a special resolution of 2/3 – meaning at least 8 of 12 possible votes.

### 14. Elections to the Board of Directors

- 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 Dennis Verge, Jane Blaine, Phillip Francis and Laura:
  - Up to three 3-year terms
- The following candidates stood for election:

- Incumbents Anne Mathewson and Derek McKie
- No New applicants
- As there were more terms available than candidates, The candidates seeking re-election have each completed successful prior terms, and their continued service is considered highly beneficial. Therefore it is put forward that the following slate:
  - Three 3-year terms: Anne Mathewson and Derek McKie

<b><u>MOTION 10</u></b>	<b>Mover/Second</b>	<b>Karen A. / Gary L.</b>
That the recommended slate of Directors be accepted as presented.		<b>Results: Carried 6-0</b>

- Congratulations to the incoming Directors.
- Bowls Canada thanks Chris Stadyk for his service to the Board of Directors.

#### **15. New Business**

- No new business was brought forward.

#### **Adjournment**

With no other business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at: 4:07pm.