

**VANCOUVER & DISTRICT BOWLS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016 @ 9:30 A.M.
AT NEW WESTMINSTER LAWN BOWLS CLUB**



Call to order 9:35AM

Present: David Arnott, Kion Wong, Sam Siu, John Aveline, Bonnie Smith, Myrle Lawrence, Sydney Hope, John Speers, Peter Lee, Ken Sherlock, Laura Low, Mary Hargreaves

Regrets: Pat Skinner, George Cubiss, Sharon Cowie

In the absence of the secretary, John Aveline agreed to take the minutes.

Approval of minutes of July 5, 2016 Board meeting

Carried

Correspondence

- Letter received from Burnaby North Bowls Club re: hosting V&D events in 2017.

Treasurer's Report

Sam Siu presented the preliminary financial report to the board. The following points were noted:

- There is a surplus of \$612, which is less than projected, due largely to lower than anticipated entries into V&D events. Both the entry fees (\$20) and the prize amounts were increased in 2016 from \$40, 30 A Section and \$30, 20 B Section to \$50, 40 A Section and \$40, 30 B Section and for single section events from \$40, 35, 25, 20, to \$50, 45, 35, 30 for single section events. This change was revenue neutral. Next year it is proposed to change to a straight \$55, 45, 35, 25 prize schedule for all events which will result in the same total prize money paid out as for 2016.
- The final figures and the presentation of the material will change slightly for the AGM.
- Membership numbers in the V&D in general appear to have stabilized over the past two years after a number of years of decline.

Committees:

- **Handbook (Kion Wong)**

The handbook was very well received again this year, the only negative comments being about the cover design. Advertising continues to be a challenge and the status of one of the major advertisers is uncertain.

The contribution from Bowls BC (now \$500) is now defined as a grant and must be applied for each year. Its express purpose is to offset any losses the handbook creates. It was re-iterated that the handbook is one of the best promotional tools for the Sport of Bowls in BC and it is hoped that Bowls BC will continue to recognize this.

- **V&D Events (Sydney Hope)**

Although events were generally down this year, there were individual events that had significant increases (women's singles & novice singles). The novice singles format of playing Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with a Friday evening BBQ was especially successful, with over 80 participants and spectators. It was asked why some

entrants were turned away and the reason was the inability to secure a second venue. The suggestion was made that the second venue be secured further in advance and possibly further from the host venue.

It was suggested that Triples be considered for inclusion (men's, women's and/or mixed), given the general popularity of this discipline and the fact that it is now a National Championship event.

- **BC Week – Women (Sydney Hope/Myrle Lawrence)**

Women's BC Week was very successful again and North Vancouver was commended for the quality of their hosting. A recognition poster was created and presented to the hosts which was very much appreciated. This was agreed to be an excellent idea.

- **BC Week- Men (Peter Lee)**

Men's BC Week was also quite successful, except for the fours, which struggled again for entries. The parking at Granville Park was cited as a cause of lower than expected entries. It was noted that this issue is temporary and is expected to be resolved for next year when local construction is completed. Granville was also recognized for the excellent greens and hospitality.

For both events the conditions were streamlined for greater consistency. There were some complaints. These were quickly and satisfactorily resolved. Some suggestions were made to include multiple venues (where a venue would only have to host one event) and mixed events. These will be discussed further.

- **President's Cup (David Arnott)**

There were 14 entries in the event this year with Granville Park going undefeated to win the Trophy. There were some issues with late entries and one team cancelling very close to the event causing the need to scramble to avoid a bye. The entry deadline will be published more prominently next year. It may also be required for teams to pay in advance and to only receive a refund with adequate notice.

The option of the V&D board providing a standby team was brought up. It was noted that the travel to and from the venue is burdensome, if a team is not called upon to play.

- **League Play –Men (George Cubiss)**

A report from George advised that the number of teams participating has gone down in recent years (21 this year) with one 6 team section and three 5 team sections. Each team played 8 games to qualify for the playoffs played at New Westminster on August 22nd. David Arnott noted that, of the 6 Vancouver City clubs, only Kerrisdale with 3 teams entered represents the city. Hopefully there is potential for additional Vancouver teams to enter this friendly, competitive League in 2017.

- **League Play – Women (Sharon Cowie)**

The women's league was successful again with 16 teams representing 10 clubs. A Richmond team won this year.

- **Top 10 (Kion Wong)**

There were 16 teams representing 11 clubs. Kion noted that, if there is an increase next year, an extra round will be required. He also noted the standard of not granting more than one bye to a single club may not be possible, if the number of entrants generates a large number of byes.

- **Awards Day (Laura Low/Peter Lee)**

There was a full entry of 32 teams. 5 teams withdrew due to a conflict with the BBC 55+ Games. It was noted that this conflict arose to a change in the BC 55+ Games schedule.

- **Juniors Events (Mary Hargreaves)**

The three junior events for 2017 have host venues and a rough schedule:

- Junior Singles: Kerrisdale (July 5 or 6)
- Mixed Triples (one player is a junior): Tsawwassen
- Junior/Adult Pairs: New Westminster (One day event to be held either Aug 19/20/26 or 27)

Mary thanked Kerrisdale for hosting the singles in 2017, noting that it is an ideal central venue between the two junior 'centres' of Tsawwassen and North Vancouver.

Mary announced that Priscilla Westlake was named the Delta Athlete of the Year for 2016 for her accomplishments in the Sport of Bowls (National Champion, National Team Member, World Indoor Singles Bronze Medalist).

South Burnaby has secured a grant of \$3,000 for 10 sets of bowls for Junior Development.

- **Rules Committee & Umpires (George Cubiss)**

George submitted a written report thanking Board members for the tremendous job done this past year involving countless hours to ensure everything runs smoothly. A drop of entries in some events resulted in Conditions of Play having to be amended.

We gained 8 new Umpires in 2016 and V&D now has 30 umpires on its officiating list. Some do not wish to officiate at V&D events which is their prerogative, however we are reaching our goal to have an umpire in each club. The officiating reports from convenors have been good, however grading umpires from 1 to 5 does not identify what umpires did or did not do well therefore comments from convenors would be very much appreciated.

This year George held the Level 1 Umpire Training Course in February and all 8 who attended did pass to Level 1. In addition George ran 4 Markers courses and 1 Rules clinic. Feedback from these courses was very gratifying.

- **Player Development & Coaching (John Speers)**

John reported that the three clinics were held, attended by 49 people.

The new coaching structure is now fully in place. Coaches are now defined as follows:

- Club Coach (formerly Level 1)
- Competition Coach (formerly Level 2)
- Performance Coach
- National Coach

Bowls BC has been provided with an updated list of current, qualified coaches. This database is still being finalized. Coaches MUST provide their date of birth, as this is used to identify individual coaches and avoid confusing coaches with the same name.

The rules for which level of coaches may coach at which events is still being works on by national and provincial bodies.

A Performance Coaching clinic has secured national funding and is expected to be held at PIBC before the end of 2016.

It was also noted that ALL Junior Coaches must have a criminal records check. This is readily available at zero or a very minimal cost.

- **Website (Bonnie Smith)**

Bonnie thanked Robert Ascroft for his assistance as she took on the task of webmaster. Robert also assisted with the BC Week results this year. There were occasional challenges adapting the formats in which various pictures were sent, but these were overcome.

The board expressed its appreciation of the website and the work that Bonnie has done to continue its success.

Bonnie suggested that taking photos of the winners might be added to the convenors' task list.

- **Bowls BC, Bowls Canada (John Aveline)**

It was noted that clubs may be having difficulty with the reporting mechanism that Bowls BC has created to track non-member participation in the Sport of Bowls. This will be brought up at the AGM for club feedback.

An anti-bullying survey from Bowls BC has been sent to V&D exec and it is hoped that clubs will also receive it, although the deadline is very close.

John Speers asked what feedback people had from Bowls BC's decision to have all payments for events and programmes paid online via PayPal. There was some negative feedback and John stated that some people did not participate in his coaching programme because of this payment policy. The feedback from the V&D Board was

that the process is a good one (it was asked if this could be implemented for V&D events), but that a transition period would have been helpful.

Currently there is a comprehensive review of all National Championships. John Aveline noted the V&D is a large body, with a major presence in the Nationals and deserves an opportunity for input. The one comment made (after the Junior and Open Singles) was that Bowls Canada had imposed a large number of demands and strictures on these events, in a way that had not been experienced during the 2013 National Championships. John said that the standards have increased markedly as a result of Sport Canada funding and that the demands made on the hosts were most likely to come, not from Bowls Canada, but Sport Canada. The board appreciated this, but it was countered that, regardless of the source of these demands, they could cause potential hosts to refuse. John said that he would communicate this to Bowls Canada and add that, if this is widespread, it needs to be relayed to Sport Canada so that they might appreciate the negative impact of their policy decisions.

- **Nominating Committee (Kion Wong)**

A committee has been struck with Kion (past president) as chair. A slate of officers will be presented at the AGM.

- **AGM Preparation**

There was some discussion as whether reports should be sent with the AGM Notice of Meeting. It was decided that directors would provide a summary of their reports, due by October 31 and to be sent to both Pat Skinner and David Arnott. The set up and format of the meeting will be the same as previous years.

Other Business

- **Burnaby North letter**

Burnaby North has sent a letter stating that, due to declining membership and severely limited volunteer resources, they are unable to host any V&D events in 2017. The V&D has responded, thanking Burnaby North for their past involvement in and support of the V&D and wishing them well in their effort to increase their membership levels.

- **Volunteer of the Year**

The process of how Bowls BC organizes this award is under review. It is expected that this review will be completed in the near future. It is expected that either Bowls BC will take over the management of the selection of the awardees or will change the award entirely, creating a Provincial Volunteer of the Year, while districts will be responsible for any district volunteer recognition they choose.

- **Final Comments**

Dave Arnott thanked the board members for the work and dedication over the past year. He felt this board was one of the most functional and effective in our sport.

Adjournment: 11:40AM

Next Meeting:

- Saturday, November 19, 2016 – AGM
 - 9:30AM Registration
 - 10:00AM Meeting