



PACIFIC INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

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2022-2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held on the Club Premises

November 19, 2023

1) Call to Order:

President Serge Pannu called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. Secretary Robert Ascroft confirmed that a quorum was established with 53 members in attendance.

2) Memorial Minute

A minute of silence to commemorate those lost to us this past year.

3) Approval of the Agenda

Serge Pannu added an item: c) Nomination of a Life Member

MOTION: Moved by: Anne Ackerman, seconded by Glory Ewen, to accept the agenda as amended. Passed.

4) Approval of the Minutes of the 2021-2022 AGM of November 27, 2022

There were no amendments or corrections.

MOTION: Moved by Bill Hartley, seconded by Kelly Robertson, that the minutes be accepted as presented. Passed.

5) Executive Reports

a) **President's Report** – Serge Pannu

b) **Treasurer's Report** - Sam Siu

Sam acknowledged Serge Pannu success in getting New Horizons grants.

During the past 14 years on the Board of PIBC, I was treasurer for 12 years. This, my 12th Financial Report, will be my last. Since most of you have a copy of the report, I don't want to spend too much time on every item, but like to emphasize a few points:

In August 2023, we had the highest bank balance in PIBC history, a total of \$166,500 of which \$150,000 in term deposit will generate around \$5,900 in interest income a year. In comparison to 2017, we had only \$43,700.

You may ask "shall we reduce the membership fees because of our financial health?", the answer is no. We have to plan long-term; we have to get ready for future big items. This building is 18 years old and will need expensive repairs. The three main items are: Bowling carpets; Roof replacement; and HVAC system. Every year we should reserve a fair portion of their expected lifespan. That is the reason we set aside \$20,000 as a reserve and are very cautious about spending.

The other changes we will face are Bowls BC and Bowls Canada: We paid \$4,884 to Bowls CB and will have to pay another \$7,327 in June 2024. We may lose the grants from Bowls Canada for running the Canadian Singles although the net income from the last tournament was less than a thousand for 2023. The Provincial Events greens fees will drop too.

I will leave the new Treasurer to prepare the budget and the new Board to recommend the new membership fee structure. The new fee to pay will be announced in the SAGM.

MOTION: Moved by Anne Ackerman, seconded by Glory Ewen, to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Passed.

c) **Secretary's Report** – Robert Ascroft

This year we have: 3 life members, one of which is still bowling. 34 new members and, 143 members who have returned. For a total of 180, which is 5 less than last year.

Unfortunately, 47 members did not renew this year for various reasons. I sent out a request for their reasons for not returning and received less than 10 replies. In the replies I did receive health, distance and other factors were reasons for not returning. I recommend every year that the director responsible for membership survey non-returning members to see if there is anything we can do as a club that would encourage people to return.

This year, for some unexplained reason, there appeared to be some confusion about the term "returning member". All a returning member means, beside us being delighted to see you again, is that we have your contact information in our database.

Our by-laws state that each year an application for membership and payment of dues is required for membership. I spent many, many, hours in October chasing down 21 people who did not comply with this requirement.

So, to be very clear, each year you must fill out a membership application, which we label Form 1 and select and pay for your membership category, Form 2. According to the by-laws both forms and payment are due October 1st of each year.

I am stepping down as secretary but a truly capable nominee, Judy Lawson, is standing for the position. She has my vote and full support.

Thanks everyone.

d) **Games Director Report** – Eric Leung

We have a successful year with one new afternoon Singles league on Monday and one new Pairs league on Saturday morning. We tried to squeeze out more practice time for other bowlers on Saturday morning so that the game starts the earliest at 9 AM. To promote the evening leagues, our new system is to charge a half league for the evening leagues, but we didn't see any improvement. Now Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings are for practice only.

In the winter league we will still be posting the Wednesday evening Aussie Pairs and Friday Evening Pairs for members to sign up. At least 6 teams are needed to form a league. Besides, based on member feedback, the two regular draws on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons will be changed from 1:30pm to 1:00pm, effective one week later. We need to inform those interested in the draw that the time has changed.

The upcoming winter leagues sign up date will be on Dec. 9 Saturday. It will be at 12:00 noon at PIBC. The teams that are currently playing in the fall leagues have priority to occupy a spot in the same league.

In the first weekend of the New Year, we will be hosting the second year of IGA Mixed Triples. Thanks to David Sullivan of IGA for the cash donation of \$400 which will be added to the cash prizes for the winners. Another \$100 will be used to sponsor the Intermediate Singles Game in March.

7. New Business

a) **Need to Post Weekly League Results Behind Password?**

As members can withhold their names from the published results the webmaster questioned the necessity for the continuing need to keep the scores password protected. It was noted that the original decision was based on some members not wanting people outside the club to see how they are performing. It was also noted that it is a personal privacy issue.

MOTION: Moved by Eric Leung, seconded by Tom Berridge, that the weekly league scores results continue to be kept password protected on the Club's website. Passed.

b) **Bowls BC Club Assessment**

In prior years, only full status club members paid the Bowls BC and Bowls Canada annual affiliation fee. Associate and social members did not. Since almost all PIBC members paid the fee through their outdoor club, only a few PIBC members not affiliated with provincial outdoor clubs were affected.

In 2022 Bowls BC decided to charge clubs by their total number of members, regardless of category type. In 2023 we were charged approximately \$4000. However, we covered this unexpected cost with our interest income from term deposits. Next year the fee goes to \$7,300 so going forward we need to examine how to apportion future costs.

Member Question: Why are we paying and what are the benefits to us?

Serge Pannu responded by breaking the answer into two parts:

Part 1: Previous system of charging, members only paid once. Now, members of multiple clubs will pay each time per club. We had no representation at the Bowls BC AGM where that resolution was approved. Provincial organizations are allocated a percentage of the Bowls Canada budget based on total bowlers in a province. Bowls Canada doesn't care how the provincial organizations collect the money.

Part 2: Affiliation with Bowls Canada through Bowls BC has a few benefits.

Pros:

- Inexpensive liability insurance for directors - \$485 last year.
- Access to provincial, national, and international singles championships
- Revenue from facility rental for provincial and national championships and training camps, offsets our fee assessment.
- Support from BBC and BCB for grant applications – grants likely depend on association with a sport body.

Cons:

- Revenue from these events is not guaranteed. This past year we had to bid for the national singles as an Ontario facility also bid. We didn't make money hosting the national but did on the provincial singles events.
- Several years ago, Bowls BC cancelled indoor provincial mixed pairs and triples championships.
- Last year Bowls Canada decided to cancel the indoor single championship in 2024 however that decision was modified to call future events as 'qualifier' instead of a championship. No guarantees however of future events.
- We could buy private liability insurance for about 20% more if we were no longer affiliated with Bowls BC.

The bottom line however is that currently, the benefits of association with BBC and Bowls Canada outweigh the negatives so we will continue to pay the assessed club fees until such time as it needs to be examined again.

c) **Life Member Nomination**

Our Bylaws include a section on Life Membership that the Club may elect one or more persons to be a life member.

- i. A Life Membership is conferred for an extraordinary contribution to the Club over an extended period of time.
- ii. Not more than two persons may be elected in one financial year.
- iii. Life Members enjoy the rights and privileges of Premier Members but do not pay any membership or affiliation dues.

Today I like to make a motion to nominate our past President, Alice Duncalf, to be a life member. If I am correct, she has been serving the board for 18 years since the start of the new clubhouse in 2005, she was President until 2017 and remains on the Board as our past president thereafter. This is to confer extraordinary contribution to the Club over the past 18 years.

MOTION: Moved by Sam Siu, seconded by Paul Choi, that Alice Duncalf be elected as a Life Member. Passed unanimously.

8. Election of Officers

Past President Alice Duncalf conducted the election of officers. The following were elected for 2023-2024.

President – Mary Ann Gilles

Vice President – Sam Siu

Secretary – Judy Lawson

Treasurer – Norman Keung

Directors at Large: Jim Duholke, Diane Fulton, Eric Leung, David Lewis, Vince Mai, Graham Mason, and Ken Sherlock.

Serge Pannu remains on the Board as Past President.

Vince Mai stood to point out that four Club members have more than 50 years of bowling experience and have delivered over 1 million bowls.

- Alice Duncalf
- Mel Eckles
- Bob Scott
- Vince Mai

President Elect, Mary Ann Gilles, stood to make the following remarks:

As your president, I promise you I will listen to your ideas, your wishes, your concerns because I believe that clear, effective communication is the foundation of a healthy club. But I also believe in a team approach to running the club so over the next while we'll be identifying the areas each member of the board is responsible for and then providing you with this information. This way, you'll be able to bring your ideas and concerns to the person who heads the team responsible for that area and you'll also be able to send that information directly to the board.

While all of the board members are dedicated to doing their best to ensure the club runs smoothly, I do want to say that no one joins a bowls club to be a member of the board of directors. We're here to bowl first and foremost, so I'd ask you all to use your good judgement about when and how to talk with us about your concerns - we'd like to enjoy our bowls games too!

In conclusion, I can't promise we'll always agree about every action that the board takes, but I can tell you that I believe that any club prospers when we all work together, when we lend a hand when needed and when we share a commitment to ensuring that PIBC continues to be a great place for its members now and in the years to come.

I want to make just a few additional comments - I promise I won't take long - and then we can go enjoy coffee and the cake - which was donated to the club by our member David Sullivan who is the owner of the IGA store in Yaletown and who couldn't be here today because of a family function he had to attend.

Until Robert sent out a reminder for the meeting a couple of days ago, I'm sure that many of you did not know that on Nov 30 PIBC turns 85. The first 60 plus years were spent in what long time members call "the old Building" which was on Main and 17th in Vancouver. When I joined PIBC it was in its final year of operation there, and it had seen better days.

Members of the club - stretching all the way back to the 40s and 50s - had been raising money for the day that a new building was necessary and even though many who contributed knew they might never see the new facility, they were committed to ensuring that PIBC would continue long after their playing days were over.

When it came time to close the old building, we were still somewhat short of the \$3 million dollars that we had to come up with as our share for the new building. So, fund raising kicked into high gear and the result was that we were able to raise the additional amount so that we could come into this facility debt free.

If you look at the little plaques on the arm rests of seats and the larger ones by the kitchen, the Pro shop, the general office, and on the wall behind rink 3 you'll see the names of some of the people who responded to the calls for financial help. It is because of all these people, stretching back 85 years, that we can play in what is the only facility of its kind in North America.

As is the natural course of things, this building is beginning to show its age, and one of the reasons that I agreed to take on this role as president is to work with you all to renew the facility so that we can all play here for many years to come. And so that whoever is president on our 100th birthday can look back and thank all of us for the vision we showed in ensuring that the facility was in top condition for future generations.

A club is more than a building, however. It is the people who come here to play, the many who volunteer their time and hard work in so many ways, it is all of us who love the game of bowls. We've grown in recent years and that means we have many new or newer members alongside long-time members, and we all have our own ideas about what the club might offer to us. Maybe you want more social activities - karaoke Friday nights? Maybe you want more tournaments - a home and away competition with Qualicum's indoor club? Or maybe you want additional leagues or practice time.

I don't know what people want, so in the New Year, we'll do a survey of members and use that as the basis for planning for the next few years. So, when the survey comes out, please take the time to respond and let us know what you want.

I'd like to thank the previous board for all the hard work they've put in, not just this year but for many years. Under Serge's leadership, the club has flourished. We are in very good shape

financially, our member numbers are very strong, and we have come out of the pandemic in great shape. None of this happens without hard work and great commitment to the well-being of the club and its members. And we owe the board and all members who show up to volunteer a huge vote of thanks.

Some of the board members are retiring and I'd like to thank each of them for the countless hours of volunteer work they've given to us all. (Each member was given a gift package).

Glory Ewen – a small thank you for all you've done.

Robert Ascroft - I'm going to miss your newsletters, in particular, and thank you so much for the many hours you've worked, especially behind the scenes.

Alice Duncalf - I know you don't like a fuss being made, so I'll simply say this - you agreed to be Vice President when I agreed to be president way back, and when illness forced me to step down, you stepped up. I know you never planned to stay on the board this long but I'm grateful you did!

Serge Pannu —you're not leaving the board for which I'm glad as your knowledge and experience will be needed! But this is a small gift to thank you for your years of dedicated leadership.

Sam Siu stood to thank all the monitors who have stepped up this year.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Serge Pannu called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Diane Fulton, seconded by Wayne Hawrysh, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 PM.

Prepared by Robert Ascroft, Secretary

Reviewed by Serge Pannu, President