



**Bowls USA  
Annual General Meeting  
November 7, 2020  
GoToMeeting Conference Call**

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President Scott Roberts call the meeting to order at 9a.m.

A moment of silence was held for members that passed in 2020.

Secretary Dee McSparran called roll.

Councilors present:

Central Division - **Mark Mathwig**

Northeast Division - **Patrick Duffy and Veronica Sum**

Northwest Division - **Steve Talkington and Pam Edwards**

Pacific Intermountain Division - **Arthur Stewart and Ginger Harris**

South Central Division - **Bob Perry and Lorraine Hitchcock**

Southeast Division - **Sandy Wall**

Southwest Division - **Gary Barnes and Melanie Vizenor**

Officers present:

President – **Scott Roberts**

1<sup>st</sup> VP - **Veronica Sum**

2<sup>nd</sup> VP - **Wayne Baines**

Secretary – **Dee McSparran**

Treasurer - **Kelly Warren**

Immediate Past President - **Richard Broad**

Guests:

**Heather Stewart**, Chair of the Coaching Committee

**Doreen Alexander**, incoming NED Councilor

Dee declared a quorum with 11 councilors present. Additionally Sandy Wall carried a proxy vote for Rick Fitzgerald (SED) for a possible total vote of 12.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed virtually.

There were no additions to the agenda presented at this time.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS** – all reports are included in the attached AGM packet

**President (Scott Roberts):**

- Scott expressed his appreciation for support from everyone for the past two years. He showed a plaque he received as a gift from incoming president Veronica Sum.
- President's Awards include
  - Ron Rollick (SCD) for his work on the 2019 US Open
  - Dee McSparran (SCD) for her years of service to BUSA, she is also now a lifetime member
  - Jackie Tucker (SED, SCD) for acting as national selector, a member of the coaching committee, and skills camp instructor
  - Jim Semanek (SWD) for being the BUSA webmaster for many years and his continued work as the SWD webmaster

**Secretary (Dee McSparran):**

- Recent updates were made to the membership benefits inventory list and the membership roster
- She showed gifts she received from both Scott and Veronica
- Dee expressed her enjoyment in serving BUSA

**Treasurer (Kelly Warren):**

- The budget is uncertain due to COVID impact on lawn bowling
- The proposed budget reflects both 2020 and 2021 and assumes we will have tournaments in fall 2021
- 2020 dues received included Central, SC, SE, and SW Divisions. The remaining divisions plan to pay dues in 2021.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS** - all reports are included in the attached AGM packet

**Constitution & Bylaws (Colin Smith):** see report

**Disciplinary (Wayne Baines):**

- There were three (3) complaints submitted in 2020. In two instances a committee was needed and composed of Councilor volunteers
  - The first complaint was returned for attention at the local level
  - The second complaint was investigated, the Committee found no grounds for the complaint and recommended no action to the Executive Committee (EC)
  - The third complaint was investigated, the Committee recommended the individuals involved be asked to resign their positions, the EC followed the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee
- Questions
  - Pam raised the topic of storage for Disciplinary Committee reports
    - Dee reported those reports are filed in the Dropbox and password protected
    - Wayne noted Committee reports are only recommendations and the EC is responsible for deciding to act or not, hence the EC meeting minutes would be the documents requiring passwords
  - Patrick asked if division disciplinary actions are passed on to the national level and whether division actions reflect on an individual's ability to participate in national events
- Scott summarized that the Disciplinary Policy should be reviewed and revised to address these topics

**Coaching (Heather Stewart):**

- Coaching Committee activities were precluded by COVID restrictions
- In looking for a better way to communicate with certified coaches the Committee began developing an expanded web presence specific to coaching topics and information. This website/page will have downloadable materials for coaches to use.
  - Gary Barnes reported a domain name was secured, BUSAcoaching.com
  - This led to a discussion about adding to the existing BUSA website or developing secondary “microsites” for different topics within BUSA
- It was determined a separate committee should be instituted, including Garry Higgins BUSA webmaster, to discuss the BUSA website, its use, and future development

**Grant (Ginger Harris):**

- There has been no grant activity in 2020
- Glorianne Mather resigned from the committee and one or two additional people are needed to administer the program

**Hall of Fame (Scott Roberts):**

- Scott is acting as interim chair since Robb Pawlak has moved
  - A new chair is needed
- HoF nominees from the SWD are Ivan and Maryna Hyland
  - Council discussed their previous accomplishments, service, and offices then voted to elect both Ivan and Maryna to the Hall of Fame
  - Scott will notify them of their appointments

**International Delegates (Dee McSparran):**

- Scott noted his Directorship at World Bowls is over and he is replaced by Ian Howard of Canada

**Marketing (Adriana Sandoval):** No report to include in the AGM packet.

**Member Database (Pam Edwards):** see report

**National Championships (Kottia Spangler-Moore):** see report

**Newsletter (Wayne Baines):**

- Currently there is no editor for the newsletter, a search continues
  - Pam suggested a gentleman that wrote a piece after the national championships in San Francisco, Ginger identified him as John Grimes, and she will provide Wayne with John’s contact information

**National Team Selection (Debbie Tupper and Richard Broad):**

- Debbie reported all international events were cancelled in 2020
- There were some issues about timing of notifications of selection, but the selectors and team have worked to correct that
- Richard added that TUSA players have been notified of tournament delays and to date all players choose to remain on the team as appointed
- New Selectors are needed, at a minimum three men and one woman

**Rules (Veronica Sum):**

- New rule books were printed and sent to new members
- The website was revised and includes the rules updates
  - Following the AGM the rules update will be sent to the membership
- Richard suggested that BUSA not reprint the rule book following the next World Bowls changes as he suspects they will be minimal and can be sent to the membership by eblast

**Supershoots (Bud Birkinseer):** see report**Umpire (Melanie Vizenor):**

- Changes to division head umpires
  - SCD - Dee resigned, Bob Perry will replace her
  - PIMD - EB Parkell passed away, Ginger Harris will replace her
- In development is a 4-session series to help new members understand the LSB, it is focused on the language in the rule book
- A meeting of division head umpires is scheduled for November 9, 2020
  - The plan is to hold these meeting three times/year
- She would like to increase the Umpire web presence like what the Coaching Committee is doing in hopes of making more materials available

**Website (Veronica Sum):** see packet

- Gary asked if analytics from the BUSA website were available, Veronica obtained those from Garry Higgins, webmaster, during the meeting and emailed it to the attendees

**Tournaments:****2021 National Championships (Mark Mathwig):**

- The event is tentatively scheduled for August 23-27 in Milwaukee. The club is proceeding with improvements on the grounds and greens assuming the event will happen

**2021 US Open (Gary Barnes):**

- Clubs involved in the US Open are at varied levels of use depending on their location and COVID restrictions in their area

**General Discussion of Tournament Planning (Scott and Veronica):**

- Dee pointed out that some divisions will be unable to hold playdowns for the National Championships because of COVID restrictions
- Mark Mathwig noted the deadline to advise Central of canceling NC would be by June 1, 2021 with no penalties
- Many options were discussed for adjustments to locations, dates, and formats. Heather pointed out we may know more about restrictions/activity after winter
- It was decided that no plans could be made until after the first of year with safety and club efforts/funding being the major considerations

**NEW BUSINESS****Proposals****National dues increase of \$5 beginning 2022:**

- Melanie moved and Ginger seconded, unanimously passed by the Council

- Scott will prepare a brief narrative for the membership to describe what the money will be used for

**Change to Constitution, Article VII, Officers remove the phrase “The two vice presidents will be of opposite genders”:**

- Melanie moved and Patrick seconded, unanimously passed by the Council

**Constitution and Bylaws revisions:**

- Additional revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws were tabled until the 2020 Organizational Chart is fully developed

**2020 Organizational Chart (Veronica Sum):**

- Presentation of the updated organizational chart. It originally developed by Janice Bell several years ago and recently the Council has reviewed/commented on it
- Each section has been assigned a member of the EC to facilitate sharing of activities and communication
  - Scott recommended every Councilor participate in at least one section since volunteers are needed to fill the roles
- There was consensus that the membership should be provided this chart, it will improve accountability and goal setting for BUSA
- Questions - Gary asked about Marketing and Branding being two distinct sections
  - Veronica sees this as an initial attempt and the format is likely to change over time, specifically those two sections may merge
  - Gary suggested the division webmasters be included in these sections
- Adoption of the 2020 Organizational Chart
  - Gary moved and Melanie seconded, passed unanimously by the Council

**Miscellaneous**

**National Tournament Director (Pam Edwards):**

- A suggestion to have a national resource for members who are unfamiliar with how to set up and run a tournament
- Heather recommended including it with the Coaching page, Melanie did the same for the Umpires page. Seeing this as a benefit to clubs and divisions it was decided they would collaborate in the development of this content. Scott also offered to help.

**Marketing Concepts (Gary Barnes and Wayne Baines):**

- They have been working informally to define the marketable aspects of lawn bowling as compared to golf, pickle ball and tennis
  - Bowls is unique in that coaching is free and skill competency can be developed quickly by a new player
  - Coaching, umpiring, and Team USA could be made into marketable “assets” for the organization
- These topics will be included in the previously discussed website meeting.

**Councilors Reports**

**Central (Mark):**

- The Milwaukee Lake Park club has played all season and gained several novices from the local curling club. Other clubs in the division were not active.

**NE (Patrick and Veronica):**

- The division played a full slate of tournaments and adapted to regional COVID rules at each host club
- The division is aware of possible new clubs including New Bedford, Massachusetts, Madison, Connecticut, Dupont Country Club in Delaware, and there was an inquiry from a tennis club in Philadelphia

**NW (Pam and Steve):**

- All clubs have played within their own area
- The Tacoma club sustained growth with the effective use of social media

**PIM (Arthur and Ginger):**

- COVID and area fires have limited visitation between clubs
- EB Parkell and Bill Campbell are notable members who passed away in 2020
- Russ Leonard in the Davis area is looking into short mat bowling
- The Oakland club has growth in membership

**SC (Bob and Lorraine):**

- COVID restrictions prevented visitations among clubs
- It is unclear if Canadians will be visiting the area to bowl in 2021
- The division will decide about the 2021 schedule in December 2020

**SE (Sandy):**

- World Parkway has been under construction for some time
- Clearwater is feeling financial difficulties due to their ongoing expenses and no bowling revenue
- Sarasota is doing strategic planning
- Mt. Dora and Sun City Center clubs have been active during the pandemic, SCC gained a few members
- Pinehurst has remained active among themselves

**SW (Gary and Melanie):**

- A letter reporting the completion of a merger between the SW Women's Division and SW Division is included in the packet
  - A committee of representatives created new bylaws and a tournament manual
  - A nominating committee is in place to recruit new officers for the SWD
- Clubs
  - Orange County clubs are open to members only
  - Los Angeles County clubs have varied participation depending on their restrictions
  - Laguna Beach is nearing completion of south green replacement, hopefully the north green work will begin in April 2021
- SWD is continuing to investigate live streaming bowls events

**Election of Officers:**

- There were no nominations from the floor

- Nominees  
President – Veronica Sum  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Wayne Baines  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Arthur Stewart  
National Secretary – Pam Edwards  
National Treasurer – Kelly Warren  
International Delegates – Neil Furman, Dee McSparran
- The presented slate of officers was elected by unanimous vote of the Council

**Additional Business:**

- Richard Broad showed a brochure from the Brinton Ranch House and Museum in Wyoming where they are considering adding a bowling green that has a water feature in the middle. Richard is doing his best to encourage better placement of the water feature should they proceed to build a green.
- Melanie asked where new rule books were sent, Dee replied they were provided to club presidents

**2021 Council Meetings**

- Quarterly GoToMeetings (third Tuesday, 5:30–7:00 PM PST):  
January 19, April 20, July 20, October 19
- AGM 2021, SWD-Orange Co (Location/date-TBD)

Scott thanked Dee and Richard for their many years of participation in BUSA offices. He adjourned the meeting.