



Bowls USA
Annual General Meeting
October 23, 2021
GoToMeeting Conference Call

President Veronica Sum call the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. PST.

A moment of silence was held for members that passed in 2021. Of specific note was that Mert Isaacman, Hall of Fame inductee from the SWD passed away this last week.

Secretary Pam Edwards called roll.

Councilors present:

Central Division – a.m. session: **Mark Mathwig with proxies for Anna Witt and Bob Schneider**

Central Division – p.m. session: **Bob Schneider with proxy for Anna Witt**

Northeast Division – **Doreen Alexander with a proxy for Patrick Duffy**

Northwest Division – **Nathan VanNess and Pam Edwards**

Pacific Intermountain Division – **Gareth Cole and Ginger Harris**

South Central Division - **Lorraine Hitchcock and Ron Rollick with a proxy for Jim Filipiak**

Southeast Division – **Martha Nilsen and Rick Fitzgerald**

Southwest Division - **Gary Barnes and Jan Hargraves**

Officers present:

President – **Veronica Sum**

1st VP - **Wayne Baines**

2nd VP – **Arthur Stewart**

Secretary – **Pam Edwards**

Treasurer - **Kelly Warren**

Immediate Past President – **Scott Roberts**

Guests:

There was one guest on the call.

Pam declared a quorum with 14 Councilors present or represented by proxy.

Veronica led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no corrections to the 2020 AGM minutes.

There were no additions to the agenda presented.

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

President Veronica Sum:

- Veronica expressed her appreciation for the efforts of everyone over the past year.

Secretary Pam Edwards: Report as included.

Treasurer (Kelly Warren):

- Reports included a Balance Sheet, 2021 Profit and Loss Statement, 2020-21 Profit and Loss Statement, 2022 Proposed Budget
- Martha (SED) asked how World Bowls dues were calculated
 - Kelly reported WB bases dues on membership though they were reduced by half for the past two years of COVID
 - Pam recently calculated WB dues to about 50¢/person
 - WB dues in 2018 = \$1562
2019 = \$1597
2020 = \$823
- The balance in the account is about \$170,000

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS - all reports are included in the attached AGM packet. Unless otherwise noted there were no questions or discussion on the Committee report.

Constitution & Bylaws - Colin Smith see report

Disciplinary – Arthur Stewart see report

Coaching – Heather Stewart (this report was provided later in the morning)

- Recent training clinics
 - SE - September 2020
 - SW - Fall 2020 gained 9 coaches
 - PIMD - October 2020
 - SWD - has a clinic scheduled for the end of January 2022
- Zoom meeting of certified coaches is occurring quarterly to share ideas and plans
- Coaches' shirts are now available through a new vendor who doesn't require a minimum order
 - Heather would like to offer the existing inventory of shirts to the current coaches for just the cost of shipping
- The Committee is again asking for \$7,000 to be budgeted to support their activities for training though the full amount has not been used in past years
 - The Committee wants to have the money budgeted in case the need arises to pay for travel to a clinic
 - Kelly asked for Heather to provide a projected budget for a typical training clinic
 - He noted expenses for a previous class amounted to about \$750 to train 6 people, of which \$500 was for travel costs
- Ginger recently had a member ask about the \$125 fee for the coaching clinics and wondered if it could be reduced if the clinic was led by local Assessor/Presenters

- Heather reported \$60 of the fee is for printed materials and a shirt plus the training has value
- She noted it is up to the Council to change the cost of the clinic; she will discuss it with Kottia and Jackie to see what options are available
- Pam suggested each division could fund the training of an Assessor/Presenter if that helped defray the costs to local club coaches for future clinics
- Arthur will collaborate with the Coaching Committee on a report to the Council about clinic cost options
- The Committee has plans to offer coaches training focusing on bowlers with higher skills levels

Grant – Rick Fitzgerald

- Essex LBC in New Jersey returned the \$400 grant funds they received for a wheelchair ramp
 - This was a new artificial green installed in May 2020
 - The green sustained extensive damage in a hurricane and their future is unknown
 - Rick reported the Committee is holding the funds for Essex' use
 - Kelly thought Essex should be allowed to keep the funds and was unaware it had been returned
 - Veronica, a club member, reported they are waiting on information from their Parks Department about repairs and possible FEMA funding; their treasury has some money to tide them over
- Ginger reported some grant recipients have already submitted reports on use of 2021 funding
- Kelly asked if Grant funding will remain at 2021 level of \$20,000
 - Rick thought this was one time only funds because of COVID restricting other spending
 - After general discussion Veronica tabled the decision on Grant Funding until 2022

International Delegates – Dee McSparran and Neil Furman see report

Member Database - Pam Edwards see report

Membership Registrar – Jann Bagley (SW)

- Inventory for New Member Packet items is running low
 - An estimate to replace all the items currently provided was about \$7,500
 - Councilors discussed what items were preferred to be included
 - Arthur suggested giving the Councilors time to discuss it with their membership before deciding
 - Councilors have two weeks to discuss with their membership and report back to Pam, the decision on what to restock was tabled

National Championships – Scott Roberts:

- Scott reported the NC Committee report included suggestions and revisions for the Policies & Procedures, but the Committee needs to meet again to finalize revisions before the Council can vote on them
- 2022 WB Champion of Champions is scheduled for late October and may be a conflict for players in the National Championships

National Team Selection - Debbie Tupper and Richard Broad see report

National Umpires Club – Melanie Vizenor see report

- Dee McSparran replaces Bob Perry as the HDU in SCD

Newsletter – Wayne Baines

- Currently there is no editor for the newsletter, a search continues
 - Councilors should poll their members for a candidate
- The fall edition will be sent in November

Rules – Melanie Vizenor see report

Supershoots - Bud Birkinseer see report

- Kelly reported Supershoots contributed \$1000 to BUSA
- Ginger explained funds are generated through a \$5/person application fee

Website – Garry Higgins see report

- Arthur noted Garry is collaborating with the Coaching Committee on their web page resources

TOURNAMENTS

2022 National Championships – Lorraine Hitchcock and Ron Rollick

- The organizing committee is meeting Monday, October 25, 2021
 - A Tournament Chair will be appointed at that time
- The date of the event is not determined yet, but late October is likely
 - Scott will send an email to the SCD with dates of existing events
 - Champion of Champions in New Zealand on **Oct 26 – Nov 1, 2022** for Anne Nunes and Charlie Herbert as 2019 National Champions
 - US Open in SWD on **Oct 2-9, 2022**
- Canadians are returning to the division which will help with volunteer workforce for the event

2021 US Open – Gary Barnes SW and Scott Roberts

- Scheduled dates are October 2-9, 2022
- 10 clubs have agreed to host
- Lodging is arranged for 3 adjoining hotels in Orange County with rates of \$119-139/night
- Laguna Wood LBC
 - Community Association is supportive of participating in the event
 - Arrangements are made to use their banquet facility and a meeting room for the AGM
 - Their video club is assisting to livestream the finals of each event
- Committee are working on sponsorships and securing volunteers
- Veronica asked if a Tournament Director had been assigned, Gary reported that hasn't happened yet

National Divisional Challenge – Rick Fitzgerald and Pam Edwards

- The NDC scheduled in 2021 was cancelled due to COVID, Pam asked if the Divisions had interest in holding the event in 2022

- Rick said Sun City Center, FL preferred the event in January or February 2022 but could consider early May following the SE Open
 - Pam noted the SC Open is scheduled for February and the SW Open is scheduled for April, which may be cause difficulties in assembling teams
- Pam surveyed the divisions for participation and dates
 - Divisions in favor of March 2022 include SE, PIM, NE, and NW
 - SC division likely couldn't put a team together until after March since they ongoing events in January and February
 - Central division may have problems putting a team together by March
 - SW – Jan noted the problem with picking a team caused problems last year; Gary said it was hard to get a team willing to travel to Florida
- Veronica raised the option of holding the event in the fall instead, following the East Coast Challenge especially if not possible in the beginning of 2022
- Gareth recommended the NDC Committee meet to determine possible dates and present that to the Divisions with a revised Proposal

National Team Selection

International Events – Veronica:

- World Indoor Championships is scheduled for April 2022 in Bristol, England
 - Anne Nunes and Bill Brault were originally selected to attend in 2019 and will be going in 2022
- North American Challenge (NAC)
 - Bowls Canada initiated discussions about changing the NAC format using fewer players per team; discussions are ongoing
- Men's Team Selection – Pam
 - The Selection Committee is dealing with two separate issues for Men's Selection
 - Short term is Men's Team selection for 2022 NAC; Scott volunteered and was approved by the Executive Board to function as the interim men's coordinator was this event only
 - He does not consider himself a candidate as a player
 - Long term issue is to determine a permanent selection process for Men's Team USA

HALL OF FAME – Lorraine Hitchcock

- Nominees
 - SED nominated Jackie Tucker, SE Councilors spoke to her qualifications
 - NWD nominated Richard Broad, NW Councilors spoke to his qualifications
 - The Councilors held a confidential vote and unanimously elected both nominees
- Lorraine questioned if new pins would be designed considering possible changes to the BUSA logo

PROPOSALS

Councilors received five proposals for review on September 23, 2021

Veronica called for a vote on each Proposal

Results of the votes are included at the end of these minutes.

- **Constitution & Bylaws Revisions** – passed unanimously
- **Finance P&P Revisions** – passed unanimously

- **Membership P&P Revisions**
 - Pam explained the revisions clarified that only Divisions belong to Bowls USA; a person must be a member of a Division to gain membership and pay dues to BUSA
 - Passed unanimously

- **Website P&P Revisions**- passed unanimously

US Open P&P – Gary Barnes and Scott Roberts

- Committee has been working to both update the P&P and develop an operations manual
 - Objective is to separate policies from the Conditions of Play and from the functional activities of running a tournament
 - The new documents formalize processes, ease transition from one division to another, and establish accountability
- Scott reported on the proposed change to the tournament format, moving events from an elimination format to qualifying rounds
 - The change was a response to previous US Open participants complaining vigorously about the number of byes in events and teams with multiple byes making it into the championship bracket; the new format eliminates byes
 - Guest Howard Harris commented on using the existing flight system (elimination) vs. using a qualifying format
 - 1 day of qualifying is fine for most events but large numbers of entries make it difficult
 - The problem of byes is overrated
 - Most byes are “invisible”
 - Qualifying events make difficulties for score entry and second day green assignments
 - General discussion of changing the format raised topics including
 - The need for the tournament schedule to be flexible to accommodate additional days of play for qualifying
 - Nathan – A tournament lasting longer than one week is difficult for working bowlers
 - Wayne – Additional tournament days impacts logistics of tournament planning
 - Questions included
 - Martha – would a random draw affect green assignments?
 - Scott replied there would be some geographic seeding for players, trying to keep club/division/international players separated in early rounds
 - Ron – does the number of entries determine the number of qualifying games and hence the number of days required to play?
 - Gareth – could seeding be done for qualifying rounds?
 - Nathan noted no ranking system exists in the US
 - Heather suggested limiting entries
- Scott reported another format change is 3 bowl pairs

- It is the current international standard
- Games are shorter and more qualifying games could be played in a day if necessary
- Gary said there is interest in getting the US Open on the World Bowls event schedule and 3 bowl pairs would facilitate that effort
- Scott asked to table the vote on P&P revisions giving time for the Committee to revise the proposal and consider a hybrid tournament format
 - The goal is to have a new proposal before the January 2022 Council meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Organizational Chart – Veronica

- Many committees still need volunteers
 - Some job descriptions have been written
 - General members can fill committee positions, not just Councilors
- Martha chairs a committee working on an information ebinder for inexperienced players
 - She appreciates any input from other divisions
- Gareth pointed out that some committees should fall under Marketing and need restructuring
 - Veronica is open to all suggestions

Due Increase – Veronica

- Executive Committee wants to implement the increase as was originally planned and passed
- Kelly suggests beginning with January 1, 2022 memberships
- Veronica will include a reminder in her next President's message

Marketing Update – Veronica

- Goals of updates
 - Newer, cleaner look to the logo
 - Improve consistency of messaging
 - Appeal to a younger audience
- BUSA received bids from graphic designers
 - EC approved about \$1,000 for initial works that included
 - Revision/refreshing BUSA logo and tagline
 - Creation of a logo template for national events
 - Creation of a Brand Style Guide for Bowls USA
- Five logo options were viewed, general comments were shared
 - Gary noted difficulties with some of designs (faded colors) when used with embroidery
 - Gareth felt there were options to deal with this
 - Jan commented the original logo had symbolism for the 7 divisions
 - Pam felt it important for the logo template to emphasize these are national events sponsored by BUSA rather than the host division
 - Kelly reported having the original logo trademarked cost about \$1,900
 - Veronica will share the comments with the designer
 - Surveying the Council, most preferred #5 of 5 shown revisions
 - Pam will send additional views to the Councilors
- Style Guide
 - Gary feels this should come before a new logo
- Website redesign

- Pam searched and identified a website designer who gave a proposal
 - Estimate for work is \$3,700
 - BUSA has two target audiences which puts greater requirements on a website
 - New bowlers
 - Current members
 - He has a lot of experience with Weebly and understands our need for a drag-and-drop platform that can be managed by volunteers
- Gary asked if new goals are being developed for the website

Short Mat Bowling – Veronica

- Ian Howard – Director of the Americas for World Bowls is an advocate and resource for equipment
- World Championships are planned in Belgium in March 2022
- Currently played in the NWD and Frick Park also has their own used short mat
 - Veronica suggested short mat as a complement to our sport to introduce younger players how to play this game indoors before going out to a lawn bowling green
 - Gareth reported short mat is used for youth development in Wales
 - Pam encouraged viewing on YouTube for those unfamiliar with this play format and will share their homemade version of their short mat for less than the cost of a new one (Cost ~\$1900)

Livestreaming – Gary Barnes

- Presented a proposal outlining 3 options for livestreaming specifically at the US Open
 - BUSA could purchase all needed equipment costing about \$22,000
 - BUSA could hire an independent business to provide the service costing about \$6,000/day
 - BUSA could collaborate with the Laguna Woods Video Club and supplement their equipment needs costing about \$5,000
- General comments
 - Equipment and technology costs change quickly
 - Needed personnel includes technology operators and commentators
 - Scott suggested a pool of commentators be planned from Team USA, especially if not playing in Finals
 - Besides games there will need to be content to fill time between events
- Questions included
 - Kelly – Is there anything to be saved by videotaping and showing the events a day later?
 - Gary – The same work is involved
 - Martha – If equipment were purchased would it be shared among clubs/divisions?
 - Gary – Yes, it would include a lot of instructions
 - Jan – How many viewers will there be?
 - Gary – viewing numbers is unknown but previous trials have had several hundred viewers
 - Veronica – Will marketing of livestream be planned?
 - Gary – Plan to use FB, website, newsletter
 - World Bowls recognition would help this
 - Nathan – Could film students be used?
 - Gary – the video club is led by a former professor of film at University of Illinois

- General comments included
 - Ginger – Trying something new is valuable; watch parties could be encouraged at clubs
 - Wayne - Non-BUSA members could consider this a reason to join; it could also be a draw for sponsors
 - Nathan – Scheduling of events considering geographic diversity may be helpful in viewership
 - Martha – This may be attractive for younger membership
 - Scott – This has been under discussion for several years
- Veronica called for a motion
 - Pam moved to provide up to \$9,000 to support livestreaming at the 2022 US Open finals
 - Ginger seconded the motion
 - Veronica took a roll call vote – motion passed by majority
 - 9 voted to approve the motion
 - Abstentions included Jan Hargraves and Gary Barnes (SWD 4 votes) and Ron Rollick (SCD 1 vote by proxy)

COUNCILOR REPORTS

Central - Bob Schneider

- The division held a successful Division Open with many players from out of town and a healthy prize package; the same is hoped for next year

NE - Veronica for Doreen Alexander

- The Essex NJ green was destroyed in a hurricane
- New Bedford is completing 2 new greens with strong support of the city; grand opening is planned for late spring 2022
 - Ginger asked that the opening be announced ahead of time

NW - Nathan VanNess

- The tournament scheduled was adjusted for late summer resulting in 3 division events
- All the club greens are improving, allowing decreased reliance on Jefferson Park in Seattle as the primary tournament venue
- The division plans to coordinate community outreach events in 2022, led by Tacoma LBC

PIM – Ginger Harris and Gareth Cole

- A healthy tournament calendar is planned for 2022; hoping to have 1 tournament at each member club
- Friendship Games among six clubs was resumed with increased attendance over prior years
- Cambria hosted the North Cal/So Cal Challenge raising funds for Team USA; those funds were directed to the Memorial Fund
- A club coaching clinic is occurring this very weekend
- San Francisco celebrated its 120th anniversary, also achieving 25% growth in membership
- Overall PIMD had 12% growth 2020 to 2021
- A survey of membership is planned to find out what they want from the Division and BUSA

SC – Lorraine and Ron

- Canadians are starting to return to the area

- The winter schedule of tournaments is back in full
- RH Johnson club trained over 100 new bowlers and gained 63 new members, led by a strong president who is relatively new bowler

SE – Martha and Rick

- Many Canadians are expected to return after the border reopens next month
- Two successful tournaments occurred with large turnouts of bowlers

SW – Gary and Jan

- The Division hosted four tournaments since August and a full schedule is planned for 2022

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- There were no nominations from the floor
- Pam Edwards as Secretary and Kelly Warren as Treasurer were reelected to serve in 2022

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kelly asked that details of the Youth Sports League in Pittsburgh be shared with other clubs
 - Veronica said reducing the cost of the league by 50% the first year was a draw for younger bowlers
- Scott thanked the Executive Board for their work this year
- Gareth suggested BUSA develop a volunteer program and a greenskeeper network

2022 Council Meetings

- Quarterly GoToMeetings (third Tuesday, 5:30–7:00 PM PST):
 - January 18
 - April 19
 - July 19
 - November 15
- AGM – October 1, 2022
 - Laguna Woods

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm PST.

COUNCIL VOTES

<i>Constitution and Bylaws Revisions</i>				10/23/21
Councilor	Division	For	Against	Comments
Anna Witt	Central	1		Proxy – Bob Schneider
Bob Schneider	Central	1		
Doreen Alexander	NE	1		
Patrick Duffy	NE	1		Proxy – Doreen Alexander
Pam Edwards	NW	1		
Nathan VanNess	NW	1		
Ginger Harris	PIM	1		
Gareth Cole	PIM	1		
Lorraine Hitchcock	SC	1		
Jim Filipiak	SC	1		Proxy – Ron Rollick
Martha Nilsen	SE	1		
Rick Fitzgerald	SE	1		
Jan Hargraves	SW x 2	2		
Gary Barnes	SW x 2	2		
Total		16		

<i>Membership P&P Revisions</i>				10/23/21
Councilor	Division	For	Against	Comments
Anna Witt	Central	1		Proxy – Bob Schneider
Bob Schneider	Central	1		
Doreen Alexander	NE	1		
Patrick Duffy	NE	1		Proxy – Doreen Alexander
Pam Edwards	NW	1		
Nathan VanNess	NW	1		
Ginger Harris	PIM	1		
Gareth Cole	PIM	1		
Lorraine Hitchcock	SC	1		
Jim Filipiak	SC	1		Proxy – Ron Rollick
Martha Nilsen	SE	1		
Rick Fitzgerald	SE	1		
Jan Hargraves	SW x 2	2		
Gary Barnes	SW x 2	2		
Total		16		

Finance P&P Revisions				10/23/21
Councilor	Division	For	Against	Comments
Anna Witt	Central	1		Proxy – Bob Schneider
Bob Schneider	Central	1		
Doreen Alexander	NE	1		
Patrick Duffy	NE	1		Proxy – Doreen Alexander
Pam Edwards	NW	1		
Nathan VanNess	NW	1		
Ginger Harris	PIM	1		
Gareth Cole	PIM	1		
Lorraine Hitchcock	SC	1		
Jim Filipiak	SC	1		Proxy – Ron Rollick
Martha Nilsen	SE	1		
Rick Fitzgerald	SE	1		
Jan Hargraves	SW x 2	2		
Gary Barnes	SW x 2	2		
Total		16		

Website P&P Revisions				10/23/21
Councilor	Division	For	Against	Comments
Anna Witt	Central	1		Proxy – Bob Schneider
Bob Schneider	Central	1		
Doreen Alexander	NE	1		
Patrick Duffy	NE	1		Proxy – Doreen Alexander
Pam Edwards	NW	1		
Nathan VanNess	NW	1		
Ginger Harris	PIM	1		
Gareth Cole	PIM	1		
Lorraine Hitchcock	SC	1		
Jim Filipiak	SC	1		Proxy – Ron Rollick
Martha Nilsen	SE	1		
Rick Fitzgerald	SE	1		
Jan Hargraves	SW x 2	2		
Gary Barnes	SW x 2	2		
Total		16		

Fund US Open livestreaming up to \$9,000				10/23/21
Councilor	Division	For	Against	Comments
Anna Witt	Central	1		Proxy – Bob Schneider
Bob Schneider	Central	1		
Doreen Alexander	NE	1		
Patrick Duffy	NE	1		Proxy – Doreen Alexander
Pam Edwards	NW	1		
Nathan VanNess	NW	1		
Ginger Harris	PIM	1		
Gareth Cole	PIM	1		
Lorraine Hitchcock	SC	1		
Jim Filipiak	SC			Proxy – Ron Rollick - abstain
Martha Nilsen	SE	1		
Rick Fitzgerald	SE	1		
Jan Hargraves	SW x 2			Abstain
Gary Barnes	SW x 2			Abstain
Total		11		