

SPLBC SGM April 18, 2021 Reports and Updates

1.0 President (Lois Goodeve)

1.1 Overview of the year so far:

Well, here we are in the second year of the pandemic. When will it end (will it ever)? Many of us are in desperate need to get outside and throw a few bowls. So that is the target- to be able to get back on the greens in a safe and satisfactory manner. With new (and changing) health guidelines, it has been a difficult job to develop the necessary guidelines and procedures and we can't thank all the committee members enough for their diligence and perseverance. Likewise, the Greens team and gardeners for delivering a wonderful oasis for us.

Not surprisingly, we are also struggling financially. Our reserves and membership donations got us through last season but will not suffice for this year. With the loss of corporate income and the partial re-instatement of associate fees from Bowls Canada, we will run out of money before membership registration in 2022. So we have a revised budget which includes an increase and we are actively pursuing new members. For those past members who are not ready to return to the club, donations are also still possible through the Park Board and greatly appreciated. More budget details from George.

1.2 Going to take everyone's help:

A great bowling season is going to take everyone's help. Recruiting new members, monitoring, coaching, greens are all areas where everyone can get involved. Your input is important on how to accomplish these tasks easier and safer. You will hear today from your leaders where help is needed. Another example of how we are all in this together.

1.3 Budgets and Grants:

We must report that in spite of the great efforts of the Capital Priorities Committee, we have not been successful in either of our two funding requests. There are many other organizations in need and only so much money to go around. But we are following up another two sources and will continue to search for new opportunities.

1.4 Joint Operating Agreement with Park Board:

All the Vancouver clubs were called to a Town Hall with the Park Board in January to be introduced to a new set of liaison persons. We are now working with the Outdoor Sports departments. I am anticipating quite a few changes in our relations but perhaps more direct support. Petra VanderLey is helping us with rewriting our new Joint Operating Agreement. Lots of anticipation of a better relationship and a new agreement by early next year.

1.5 Communications (Mike Smolnicki and Neil Wilson)

With all the changes happening and continuing to happen, communications are vitally important. Thanks to Mike and Neil for keeping us up to date. Keep tuned to the website and read the newsletters to stay up to date.

2.0 Treasurer (George Guthrie)

2.1 Financial Statements

Traditionally at the Spring GM the statements are informal i.e. for internal use only. We have chosen this time to present formal statements because of one of our grant applications which I will explain later.

The 6 month deficit of \$25,653 is less than the prior year amount of \$34,210. The main difference is that we replaced the West green plinth boards last year.

The bank balance of \$43,498 includes \$13,078 of NHSP funds from the 2019 grant not yet spent but that we are committed to spend in the next year. So our cash available is really \$30K.

We have set up a Designated Reserve of \$22K - this needs an explanation:

- In 2020 we applied for an NHSP grant of \$25K. The application was not approved.
- To apply for a Gaming Grant we have to show that our assets do not exceed 50% of our annual operating costs.
- To comply we have to have a designated reserve which can be deducted from the assets when calculating the 50% test.
- Precise details of the reserve can be found in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

2.2 Revised Budget

We now have more information about how we can operate through the bowling season than we had for the original budget in October. So we have prepared a Revised Budget for this fiscal year. The Board of Directors approved this budget on April 5.

The budget is comprised of the actual results to March 31 then a projection for the next 6 months.

The significant changes are set out at the bottom of the budget which was distributed to you with the notice of this meeting, but I will go over them now:

1. The number of bowling members has been reduced from 200 to 150.
2. The bowling membership fee has been increased from \$215 to \$250
3. Social members have changed from zero to 80
4. The social membership fee has increased from \$50 to \$75
5. Revenue from Corporate Rentals has been eliminated.

At this point I would like to address our cash projection for the next 12 months i.e. to March 31, 2022.

If we do not receive any grant money from either the Gaming Branch or the Local Sports Relief Fund, our total bank balance will be exhausted before March 31, 2022 - and that is with the membership fee being increased at this time.

At the end of my presentation I will make a motion for the members to accept this revised budget with the increased fees included.

2.3 Capital Priorities Committee

In 2020 we applied for a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program to replace the east green plinths, to upgrade the sprinkler system, and a few smaller items. The government did not accept this application.

We are now in the process of applying for two provincial grants -

- The Community Gaming Grant
- The Local Sports Relief Fund

It is many years since we have applied for a Gaming Branch grant. If successful it could be an annual boost to our financial position.

The Local Sports Relief Fund was started by the province in the fall of 2020. We, along with most of the bowling clubs in the Lower Mainland, applied but were not successful.

The province has opened it up so we are re-applying again with our more negative financial position.

I would like to thank the committee members for their great work -

Brad Marchant, Mary Ann Gillies, Sharyn Collis, John Sinclair and of course Lois.

Finally, I am indebted to Linda Duncan for all her help. She carries more than 50% of the financial work load. I would be lost without her.

3.0 Vice-President's Report (Sharyn Collis)

3.1 Corporate Events (Sharyn Collis, Lois Goodeve, Anne Berridge and Keith Bospflug)

As we don't have know what will be mandated by Dr Henry or Bowls Canada we need to wait until May to act on Corporate reservations

Anne Berridge has a letter ready to send to past Corporate customers detailing our new fee structure of \$75 per person and all Covid Protocol measures to be taken for their safety.

Keith Bospflug is looking for volunteers for Corporate events please contact him if you are interested.

I look forward to seeing us all on the greens.

4.0 Past President's Report (Eva Murray)

4.1 House (Wayne E. Hawrysh)

Janis Ballantyne will be assisting Wayne.

4.11 No Pre-Season Cleanup Day

The House was not used much during the winter, so maintenance was done daily and weekly as required. We will hire a cleaner for weekly duty.

4.12 Team Growth

As bowling begins, Wayne and Janis will need some assistance to keep the clubhouse in order, so will be looking for additional volunteers to share the load.

4.13 Liaison & Communication

Pre-season & during the season, regular communication with the other team leaders will be necessary so that our rules and protocols will continue and Provincial standards and guidelines will be maintained. The clubhouse is vital to the season running smoothly.

4.14 Security

No major incidents have been reported lately. Periodic, random checks from Securiguard will continue.

4.15 Our Role

We request that we clean up after ourselves and do our part in keeping the house clean and safe.

4.2 Membership (Len Gallant)

4.21 No Open House

Because of COVID 19 restrictions, there will be no Open House again this season. Recruiting will be done differently - posters/flyers, social media, word of mouth, etc.

4.22 Website

Information has been updated; kindly refer friends and acquaintances there. The Membership Form will be available Apr 22 for Renewals. Navigation tab will be added to home page after today's meeting.

Thanks go to Mike Smolnicki for his suggestion of adding an option on the webpage for perspective members to leave their name and contact info. We have 58-60 people sign up and we've been keeping them informed about lessons etc.

4.23 Memberships

We will be taking new members this year. Renewals will start Apr 22; ideally all done online this year.

4.24 Coaching

Coaching will be more informal this year, three free lessons. Len will refer all new members to Coaching Team.

4.25 Communication

There is always a need for this, but especially more so now that we don't see each other as much on a day-to-day basis. Len will be working closely with other members and team leaders for recruiting and processing membership.

5.0 Bowling Director's Report (Albert Nieuwold)

NOTE* - All Club Championships, Competitive Leagues and other competitions are on hold. Bowls BC has issued a Clarification for Conditions of play that presently preclude them (received just after the SGM)

5.1 Games Report (Graham Mason)

5.11 New Game Protocols

We have a number of new rules this year. Bowls BC has said that when you are on the rink, you must keep 3 metres of separation (that's 10 feet) from other people on your rink. Last year you will recall it was a 2 metre/6 feet rule. To make this work and provide ample room for bowlers to maintain separation, the short mat must be placed at the 4 metre mark. In other words, the 'T' is now at the 4 metre mark, not the usual 2 metre mark. And a jack must be placed back on the 4 metre 'T' if it is thrown beyond that.

To maintain 10 feet of separation, all movement around the mat has to be in a counter-clockwise motion and also when changing ends too.

There are two other changes of note. Members must now wear a mask when entering through the gate, and you must keep the mask on at all times EXCEPT when you are playing. The 2 metre 6 feet physical distancing rule is still in effect when not on your rink. If you choose to wear a mask on your rink, you must still abide by the 3 metre rule.

The other change we are making is that bowlers will now set up their own rink. This will cut down on the monitor workload and maybe allow us to switch at some point to just one monitor instead of two. The Back to Bowling Committee will be providing guidelines for how this will work to keep everyone safe, and Neil is preparing a video for the monitors

5.12 2021 Leagues to Start in Late May

Our opening day is planned for May 1st, and like last year the booking system must be used to reserve your rink. In late May, we will start our leagues.

The Singles league will now move to Monday evening, the Shady Ladies and Novice leagues will have Tuesday mornings and evenings respectively, the Wednesday Competitive Pairs will return, and so will the Thursday evening Blue Heron League.

Friday evenings were very quiet last year, so we are considering having cut-throat play that night, starting in late May.

5.13 Club Championships and Other Events

As far as club championships go, we will schedule these one day events later in the season.

In addition to Mens Singles, Women Singles and Novice Singles, I'd like to see if we can have three separate pairs championships just for this year. Mens Pairs, Womens Pairs and Mixed Pairs.

Also, we are looking at how we can have some fun events, like an Ultimate Pairs event, Game of Ages, a Cut-Throat tournament, that kind of thing. So lots of exciting events are in the pipeline.

5.2 Greens Report (Gavin Clifford)

5.21 What's Been Done

In mid March a team of volunteers completed the aeration and topdressing (coring & sanding) of 100% of the east green and the perimeter of the west green. Deep seeding of both greens was done a week later with intense seeding done around the perimeters. The pile of sand outside the main gate will be used on the centre section of the west green when we core there later this spring.

5.22 Whats New

We have a sod nursery In progress. A wooden perimeter has been made behind the East benches and filled with sand and soil and topped up with sod. The Parks Board provided soil for this and for our gardens. Sod from the nursery will be used to patch repair trouble spots on the greens. New grass will be grown in the nursery when sod is removed.

We have acquired a Greens Brush to remove Debris from the greens, and the Greens Team is pleased with its effectiveness.

FINALLY we have a Top Dresser that WORKS. Not self powered, we pull it with our tractor.

5.23 Greens Status

The Greens are looking good, perhaps slightly behind where they were last year due to a cool slow spring.

We are hopeful that the patched areas of the greens will be more playable than last year.

We are having the edges of the greens cut to a higher length than the rest, in the hopes that it will keep the grass in those areas healthier however the height of the cut throughout the greens will be lowered as the season progresses.

Watering will be closely monitored. There will be less water delivered to the cool shady areas and the implementation of a hand watering schedule for the dry spots if needed. The goal is firm flat greens.

There are no plans at present to have any rest periods for the greens.

5.24 Greens Protocols

Stay 3 metres apart at all times on the greens, EVEN from people in your personal “Bubble”. Creating exceptions makes it very difficult for our monitors. Only one person at a time should be in the games room.

Please Avoid Standing on the edges of the greens (Approximately the first 2 metres). Most of the damage in those areas is caused by foot traffic. Moist turf, especially early in the season, can be very delicate. Please avoid walking or standing on any bare, damaged, muddy, or extra wet spots.

Take care on the delivery of your bowls. If the rinks are being marked, USE LONG MATS. We are well aware that using the long mats can be a pain but they are very effective at preventing divots. A single game of bouncing bowls can cause turf damage that may take weeks to repair. Preventing divots is not just a job for the skip, it is something we can all help prevent.

Clean up after yourself in the clubhouse. Wipe down taps and other touched surfaces in the washrooms with the Lysol and paper towel provided.

5.25 How to help

The Greens Team meets on Wednesday mornings, and they volunteer for various tasks both on the greens and around the clubhouse. Show up at the club around 9AM to help out, or contact Gavin Clifford for information. Other tasks that may need doing through the week include filling crowholes, clean up of debris that's blown onto the greens. If you are a morning person, removing the morning dew around 8:00 is an important means of disease control. Check with Gavin about brushing the dew.

Our hired Greenskeeper, Scott, is dedicated to providing us with the best bowling surface possible. He receives direction from the Greens Team Leader as developed by the Greens Committee.

Explaining the greens maintenance program and responding to critiques from members, is not a good use of his time. Should you have questions or concerns about how the greens are being looked after please contact the Greens Team Leader – Gavin Clifford.

5.3 Coaching Report (Dave Griffith)

5.31 Free Lessons

This year the lessons will be free because new members will not have an opportunity to try out lawn bowling at the open house. We don't want people paying money and finding they don't want to play.

5.32 New Bowlers

We currently have 48 new bowlers signed up for lessons and 10 on a wait list. We will make every effort to provide lessons to all on the waiting list.

5.33 Dates and Times

The first lesson will be either Sunday May 2, Tuesday May 4 or Thursday May 6.

The second lesson will be either Tuesday May 11, Thursday May 13 or Sunday May 16. This way we avoid lessons on Mothers Day. Sunday lessons will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Tuesday and Thursday lessons will be from 6:45 to 8:45 PM. After these two lessons new bowlers will have to decide if they want to join the club.

On May 18 and 20, we will offer a third lesson in a game setting to all new bowlers who have become members.

5.34 Novice Evening

We will continue to have a novice evening on Tuesday evenings as we have in past years. New bowlers will have to sign up for this evening through the computer system. There will be an experienced bowler working with each group. It will begin May 25.

5.35 Coaches and Volunteers

We currently have 16 coaches and 8 volunteers. Anyone else wishing to volunteer should contact Dave at coachingdirector@splbc.com

5.4 Back to Bowling Team Report

5.41 New Rules for Play

This year starts off much like last year, but there are a few more restrictions. Masks must be worn when off the green. Physical Distancing on the green has expanded to 3 metres (10 feet) at ALL TIMES, even with persons in your personal bubble. We will be playing mostly pairs to start, and we have had to devise protocols to dictate each person's position on the rink, one set of protocols for delivering, another for in the head, and a third for switching ends. The paperwork is much the same, there will be a one-time liability waiver, a one-time acknowledgement committing to abide by safety protocols, and a recurring medical declaration.

5.42 Be Ready for Changes

Everything is still tentative. New governmental, Bowls BC, or Parks Board rulings could cause changes at any time. We hope that as summer comes along and vaccinations progress Covid Cases will fall and restrictions will ease. Our protocols are new and we expect to fine tune them as we go along. All bowlers will need to keep up-to-date on the current Clubhouse, Greens, Playing, and Equipment Handling protocols.

5.43 Reservations Like Last Year

With very few differences, (mostly in scheduling times) bowlers will be able to reserve spots on a rink in a first come first serve basis. Chris Chapman will be running Skedda for us again this year.

5.44 More work for Bowlers

Our new protocols involve bowlers, under monitor supervision to do more of the setup and cleanup of equipment before and after their games. Last year we placed a tremendous workload on our monitors, and had some volunteer burnout. This year we are trying to safely share the load. Bowlers will have a larger role in setting up and removing long mats, and in accessing and replacing rakes and lifters etc. So far we have around 50 new bowlers taking lessons, so we may not be able to allow bowls reservations for club bowls. That means club bowls and containers will need to be sanitized after use.

5.45 Back to Bowls Team

The Back to Bowls Team, Chris Chapman, Gavin Clifford, Dave Griffiths, Graham Mason, Albert Nieuwold, and Neil Wilson, have put in a large amount of time developing protocols and schedules, still ongoing, to get us ready to bowl. Thank you so much to each of them. In addition the Greens Team and Gardeners have been working all spring to get our Clubhouse, Greens, Gardens, and Equipment in great shape. Thank you. We have a good number of Coaches, Monitors and Convenors ready to go. Thank you. New volunteers are always appreciated. Welcome back, and let's have a Safe bowling season.

6.0 Social Director (Pat Furlong)

6.1 Social Events

The 2020-2021 social season has been unusual, for sure! Although Covid 19 shut down most of our activities, a few did survive. Many thanks to Chris Chapman for the tireless work he put in ensuring Monday and Thursday euchre continued. He had support from Toni and Trevor so huge thanks to them, too. It has been truly enjoyed by all who played. The games will come to an end on Monday April 19 and Thursday, April 22, respectively. Thanks, also, to Alice Dickson for her work ensuring bridge was able to continue. It will come to an end on April 21. Her efforts meant a lot to the people who were able to play. We have hosted a few virtual trivia nights over the last few months and they will continue on the last Friday of each month for the foreseeable future. And, finally, the jigsaw puzzle trade table at the club will be on going.

2021 SPLBC annual social events are still up in the air. The restrictions around group size are still in place, making it difficult to plan for the upcoming season. When weather permits, bowling will open under the Phase 2 restrictions that we ended the season on last year. We will open the season with a modified Golden Bowl Ceremony with Judith Parkes throwing the first bowl. That will be followed by a limited bowling session, as per Phase 2 guidelines. Tentative date is May 1 which will be firmed up later. I'd like to thank Terry Sever for offering to head up the BBQ teams, should we be able to host any BBQ nights this upcoming season. As for the other annual events, unfortunately, we will have to see what direction we get from BC Bowls and/or the province before we are able to make any plans.

6.2 Bar Report

I would like to thank Iain Girvan for taking on the lead for our bar service. He has put together a well thought out start up plan, but again, we need to wait to see what direction before going any further. Needless to say, after the year we've all had, his efforts are greatly appreciated!