



**Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Janine Higgins.

1. Welcome - Janine welcomed everyone and displayed the agenda for the meeting on the screen. Janine said the minutes of last year's meeting had been posted on our website, but also gave a quick review of them for those present.

2. Confirmation of Notice and Quorum
Confirmed. 39 members in attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes of the AGM October 20, 2021
Motion to approve by Barry Onslow, seconded by Chris Punter **CARRIED**

4. President's Report by Janine

- An early attempt to reopen the club in November 2021 was set back by Covid concerns. Our second effort in March 2022 was more successful. At that time we were very grateful to Barbara Seagram for donating her time, expertise and enthusiasm in a workshop that attracted 60 members. The transition continued in April towards more face-to-face games and fewer online games.
- we are now pleased to be starting up a Tuesday evening in person game beginning in October. Our present schedule includes 7 in person and 4 online games
- the London Bridge Centre has recently ranked 61st throughout all ACBL clubs so far this year in tables played -noting that this includes both online and face-to-face play. However, in spite of the positive numbers we are still behind our 2019 figures.
- we have been able to cover all immediate costs during the pandemic thanks to several factors: our landlord was very accommodating during the shutdown and we also received government rent assistance; we had much reduced heating, utility and cleaning expenses; our directors donated their time; and online play generated some income. We now have to assess our ability to meet all costs going forward. To that end we have renewed the lease for three years rather than five. And we expect the next fiscal year will give us a good indication of our financial health going forwards.

- Education: we have continued to make many efforts to attract new players to our club and to maintain the interest of our existing members through our online and face to face course offerings. In all thirty groups have received instruction from six of our teachers. The 5th chair concept proved popular - where one instructor assists a group of four. Hazel Hewitt was instrumental in having twelve mentors assist new players in their transition from online to in person play. A recent learn the game workshop attracted fifteen attendees.
- Thanks: Janine wishes to acknowledge Alison Marr, our education coordinator and all our instructors for their outstanding contributions.
- Special thanks go to our many volunteers:
 - All those who help in the kitchen and with catering.
 - Those who monitor health and safety matters.
 - Our board members.
 - Dwight Bender - whose assistance is constant in a multitude of ways.
 - Penny Finneron who puts together our monthly newsletter
 - Al Edwards whose work behind the scenes has ensured our smooth operation. He set up the registration process at the start of our reopening/ he has been instrumental in the renegotiation of our lease; and he presently organizes the directors in the absence of Bruce and Tom.
 - Sue Edwards who takes care of our day to day financials, banking, preparation of statements, etc. and who sees to the updating of our website.
 - Bruce Moor, our director of operations, who volunteered his time through most of the pandemic and who is responsible for the smooth running of our club
 - Tom Jolliffe whose contributions are many.
 - Our game directors - we appreciate their many challenges involved in setting up and running every game.

5. Financial Report - Kate Brooks

- Kate distributed copies of our audited financial report. She displayed the report and explained each item. The full Financial report will be in the Dropbox.
- Kate wished to thank Al Edwards for his work in applying for government rent reductions during covid.
- and noted that to date we have only received half the membership dues of the 2019 numbers
- as expected, expenses are up over last year now that we are back up and running again

6. Motion to accept the Financial Report as presented by Kate

Moved by Ron Salt, seconded by Paul Yorke

CARRIED

7. Motion to continue the services of Gary Westfall as next year's auditor

Moved by Al Edwards, seconded by Rick Jordan CARRIED

8. Report of the Nominating Committee - Judy Stirling

- Judy thanked outgoing Board members Marilyn Ellis, Betty Grant, Angie Francolini, and Alison Marr for their terms of service on the Board.
- Angie and Alison have agreed to serve a second term, Angie as Vice-President and Alison as our Education coordinator and are so acclaimed.
- Judy announced the nominating committee's recommendation of Danielle Galbraith and Don Hambley to fill the two vacant positions.
- Judy called for any new nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion that nominations be closed was made by Graeme Tindale and seconded by Paul Yorke
CARRIED
- Danielle Galbraith and Don Hambley were acclaimed as new Board members.

9. Question and Answer period

Janine answered the following questions from the floor:

- Q Our expenses have increased 100% over last year. Is this sustainable?
- A reminder that last year, our rent was subsidized by both landlord and government, that during closure we were paying very little for utilities and maintenance, and in early games we were not paying our directors. Regarding sustainability going forwards, we will have a clearer idea after the next full financial year. And we have taken the precaution of renewing our lease for 3 years rather than 5.
- Q Any plans to contact members who have not renewed? Is there any advantage to letting members how often they need to play in order for us to sustain operations? What is the current membership? Does the continued offering of virtual games make a difference?
- A Not all questions were answerable. We currently have 281 paid members, fewer than pre-pandemic. There has in fact been an increase in face-to-face players and a decrease in online participation. We do need one full year before we can properly re-assess our situation. Meanwhile we will continue in our efforts to appeal to as many former and new members as possible.
- Q What is our attitude towards non-members playing in our virtual games? Does their inclusion perpetuate virtual play being offered at the expense of the success of face to face play?
- A On the one hand, non-members pay to play which is to our advantage. On the other, for many members there are several advantages to being able to play online and we do not intend to completely discontinue virtual games. Also, ACBL membership allows all members access to all clubs, so that becomes a non-issue.
- Q How can we continue to attract members back to the club?
- A Marlene Benny reminded us of the power of social occasions and celebrations to bring people together. With that in mind, she announced she was looking for volunteers to contribute to the snacks table at our upcoming Tournament
- A Janine said the new Board would be looking at new social initiatives and spoke of a possible Art and Artisans event which Angie Francolini will be investigating further.
- Q If we have over \$100,000 in the bank, how is it being invested?

- A Al Edwards said that we require most of it to be liquid; and that it is being held in an account which avoids bank charges; but agrees that perhaps now might be a suitable time for a 6-month GIC
- Q Barry Onslow wondered if anyone had thought to thank Janine for all her work and contribution to the club
- A Unanimous applause.

Motion by Susan Wark to terminate the meeting at 1:25 p.m. CARRIED

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