

# 2022 OVCA AGM Minutes - September 19, 2022

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## 1. Call to Order and Welcome

The 2022 OVCA AGM was held as a virtual meeting via MS Teams for yet another year as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic and the current 7<sup>th</sup> wave. Forty-three participants (including 9 OVCA Board members), representing 21 OVCA member clubs, joined the virtual meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm EDT. The meeting was also recorded via MS Teams.

As a matter of procedure for the meeting, participants were informed that for motions moved during the meeting, participants with questions, feedback and/or objection to the motion, to use the “raise hand” action and/or the comment box in MS Teams.

The meeting started with a land acknowledgement. Then the OVCA President, John Tobias, welcomed everyone to the 2022 OVCA AGM and expressed his hope that this would be the last virtual meeting with AGMs back to live in-person meetings next year.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Ron Guilbault – OVCA Youth Director  
Seconded by: Brent Litle – OVCA Director – Club Liaison

That the agenda be approved as presented.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

Note: the order in which items were covered during the meeting was adjusted as the meeting proceeded based on people being available and able to join the meeting. The minutes however have been captured following the approved agenda with indications where order was changed.

## 3. Introductions

John Tobias introduced and acknowledged the OVCA partner associations (i.e. agenda item 7):

- a. Ladies Curling Association – there was no representative on the call
- b. Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club – David Brown was able to join the meeting later and updated everyone that the Canadian Branch was moving forward with organizing Branch events for this year (Ontario playdown, Governor General’s Event, Quebec Cup, President’s Spiel, Tim Caverly Bonspiel and an International Event March 16-18, 2023). For more information see [www.canadianbranch.org](http://www.canadianbranch.org).
- c. Curling Outaouais – Roger Smith thanked the OVCA for the invitation and updated everyone that 6 curling clubs make up Curling Outaouais.
- d. CurlON – Steve Chenier was able to join the meeting later and updated everyone that CurlON had just completed a successful AGM and Symposium on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> and that he was now doing several presentations on Food Handling Requirements with the next presentation being at the Prescott CC. He was asked what was happening with TSSA (Technical Standards and Safety Authority for Ontario) and their inspection requirements. Steve responded that every club and arena in Ontario will be forced to have a full asset management review and audit of their plant done and that this will have an associated cost. The audits have been delayed due to inspectors with the TSSA being on strike. More information on the TSSA requirements to come.
- e. Curling Canada – Danny Lamoureux, who is retiring from his position at Curling Canada, thanked everyone for keeping curling current and vibrant. Key updates from Curling Canada: a new website to provide all kinds of resources for affiliated curling clubs [www.businessofcurling.ca](http://www.businessofcurling.ca) is in the process of being launched (initially, the beta version will be available to anyone, but then an access code will be provided to member clubs for access to the launched version); based on feedback from numerous surveys and polls only 3% of Canadians curl and key feedback from non-curlers is that they didn’t know that curling existed and/or that curling was available in their community; numerous events are underway early in the season (Canadian University qualifier at the RA CC for World University Curling Championship, PointsBet Invitational Spiel in Fredericton, Grand Slam in North Bay); ticket sales over the first week for the World Men’s Curling Championship in April 2023 have been exceptional.

The introduction of the current OVCA Board was done after agenda item 6 (Business Arising from Minutes of Last Year's AGM).

The current OVCA Board was introduced: John Tobias - President; Gord Butler - Treasurer; Lidia Cormier - Secretary; Ron Guilbault - Youth Director; Paul Hennessey – Development Director; Anne Davis - Director of Special Events and Events; Brent Litle - Club Liaison Director; Melvin Lee – Director; John Shea – Director (not present during Introduction) and Charlene Sobering (not available for the meeting).

#### **4. Moment of Silence**

John Tobias asked for a moment of silence to remember those in our community who have passed in the last year.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes from last year's AGM held virtually on Monday September 27, 2021**

Moved by: Gary Albers – Prescott CC  
Seconded by: Bill Shorter – Deep River CC

That the minutes from the AGM of September 27, 2021 be approved as presented.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

#### **6. Business Arising from Minutes of Last Year's AGM**

John Tobias updated the OVCA member clubs that the OVCA Board has been starting to work on the futures of the OVCA through the year. A proposal for handling OVCA events going forward has been put forward to member clubs, but to date, volunteers to form event host committees to host regional events has not yet been successful. The Board has also recruited several new Board member candidates to carry on the OVCA work going forward.

#### **7. Acknowledgement of Partner Associations**

The Acknowledgement of Partner Associations was covered as part of agenda item 3 (Introductions).

## **8. President's Report**

John Tobias, OVCA President, thanked the participants for attending the AGM and for all the warm wishes he has received. He indicated that he is happy that things are starting to return to normal as the pandemic subsides and hopefully, we won't have to cancel events in the future.

He thanked:

- the Hunt Club for hosting the Canadian Clubs Championship
- The RA CC for creating the new Curling Centre of Excellence
- The Russell CC for hosting a successful OVCA golf tournament. John asked that any club interested in hosting this event this year, to let him know

## **9. Directors' Reports – No presentations planned. Questions and/or comments are welcomed**

The President opened the floor for comments, feedback and/or questions from member clubs regarding the Directors' Reports. There were no comments nor questions.

## **10. Financial Report**

Gord Butler, OVCA Treasurer, presented the financial information.

### **a. Review Engagement Report for 2021-22**

The finalized 2021-22 financial statements which have been reviewed by BDO were provided. Gord focused on the Income Statement and provided the following key notes:

- A deficit of approximately \$10,000 was planned due to the 50% reduction for membership fees for 2021-22
- Actual deficit was \$66,000, which was primarily due to a 10% loss in investments due to market conditions and the additional team grants that were awarded during the year given 2 years of events being held in the same year due to Covid shutdowns and event re-scheduling
- The revenue of \$90,000 and expense of \$90,000 reflects the grant money that the OVCA was successful in acquiring from the Ontario government for the World Men's Curling Championship which was then passed on to Curling Canada who is running the event.

b. Budget 2022-2023 and Approval

Gord presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023. Key items from the budget:

- A \$64,000 deficit is projected (more on this)
- Return to normal club fees for OVCA membership. All invoices have been sent out electronically based on each club's registration with the OVCA via curling I/o. Action: clubs need to provide the OVCA with any updates for their club's contact information using curling I/o.
- \$192,500 in additional grant money from the Ontario government for the World Men's Curling Championship is shown as revenue and expense, with the grant money flowing through the OVCA to Curling Canada
- Other new expenses budgeted for this year are:
  - Professional fees to help with updating the OVCA bylaws to be ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act) compliant
  - the OVCA Board members to be trained on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion following the Curling Canada Symposium
  - Purchase of a Street Curl System, which is an inflatable system to encourage people to try out curling. This system will be available to be loaned out to member clubs.
  - OVCA Support for Wheelchair Curling (to be covered in agenda item 11b. under New Business)
  - \$60,000 allocated for a planned OVCA Symposium in the Spring of 2023 (to be covered under agenda item 14. Upcoming Year)

The motion to approve the 2022-23 budget was deferred until after the New Business and Upcoming Year agenda items were covered. For minute purposes the motion is recorded below.

Moved by: Robert Mahon – Cornwall CC  
Seconded by: Ron Whitehorn – Prescott CC

That the 2022-23 budget be approved as presented.

The floor was open for any questions regarding the budget:

- Robert Mahon (Cornwall CC) requested that the OVCA provide OVCA fees for the following year in the Spring of the current season prior to the Clubs setting their budgets. Action: Gord to take this back to the Board
- A question was raised regarding the new U18 Championship budget expense item to which Ron Guilbault, the Youth Director responded that he was trying to organize an annual U18 Championship event since currently,

there are Men's, Women's, Mixed, U21 and Little Rocks Championships but no event for U18.

There were no more questions. The motion stands as presented.

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

## **11. New Business**

### **a. Rock Our House 2022-2023**

Elaine Brimicombe explained that Rock Our House is a friendly competition between curling clubs. Each club has their own specific promo code to be used by their club members and friends to purchase passes for the World Men's Curling Championship. The promotion ends in December and curling clubs with the most purchases will receive 1 or more event passes donated by Curling Canada that can be used by the club as they choose. The prizes for Rock Our House are Ken Waterman and Linda Cox. Curling clubs requiring more information about Rock Our House can reach out to the Rock Our House prizes.

### **b. Wheelchair Curling**

Elaine Brimicombe updated the curling clubs on a new pathway for Wheelchair Curling in our region called: Try, Learn, Play and Stay, where wheelchair persons can come out to try the sport of curling, then Learn Curling through a structured Learn-to-Curl program for wheelchair curlers, then Play games between themselves and visiting teams and finally Stay and become club members. Curling Canada is providing funding to help with Try Curling and the OVCA and CurlION have agreed to provide funding for the Learn-to-Curl program.

## **12. Motion – Board Members 2022-2023**

This agenda item was covered after agenda item 14 (Upcoming Year).

Moved by: Cassandra Spruit – Winchester CC

Seconded by: John Dilabio – Cornwall CC

That the OVCA Board of Directors for 2022-2023 be appointed as follows:

- President – John Shea (Hunt Club)
- Vice-President – Paul Hennessey (City View)

- Treasurer – Gord Butler (Navy)
- Secretary – Lidia Cormier (Huntley)
- Director Youth Development – Ron Guilbault (Russell)
- Director Development and Grants – Paul Hennessey (City View)
- Director Communications – Charlene Sobering (Huntley)
- Director - Club Liaison – Brent Litle (Carleton Place)
- Director – Events and Special Events – Anne Davis (Metcalf)
- Director at Large – Melvin Lee (City View)
- Past President – John Tobias (Russell)

There were no objections. The motion is approved.

### **13. Ken Thain Awards**

This agenda item was covered after agenda item 11 (New Business).

Honouring club members, who have made outstanding contributions and provided countless hours of volunteerism, John Shea announced this year's Ken Thain award winners:

- Pippa Sellers (RA) - to be presented on a date TBD by John Shea and Elaine Brimicombe
- Rick Smith (Metcalf) - to be presented on October 12, 2022, by John Tobias and Anne Davis
- Janet Douma (Winchester) - to be presented on October 7, 2022, by John Tobias

Representatives from their respective club, introduced each winner and the winners will be presented the award at their home club as indicated above.

### **14. Upcoming Year**

John Shea provided the clubs with an update on:

- The recent CurlION Symposium (held on September 17, 2022)
- The planned OVCA Symposium for Spring of 2023
- Strathcona Cup

Items from the CurlION Symposium:

- Erin Flowers did an excellent presentation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) sharing new ideas and barriers that people experience coming to curling clubs. This is an area that the OVCA is looking at playing a role in.

- Elaine Brimicombe, the outgoing chair for CurlION was presented the CurlION lifetime achievement award

#### Planned OVCA Symposium for Spring of 2023

- It has been a long time since the OVCA has done a Symposium for its members
- The intent of the Symposium is to share value-added programs and resources for clubs and to cover topics such as:
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and bringing in a keynote speaker
  - Safe Sport Training – note, the OVCA Board will be doing Safe Sport Training
  - Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) - note, the OVCA Board will be updating its Bylaws this year to be ONCA compliant
  - Technical Standards and Safety Authority of Ontario (TSSA) and the new regulations and inspection requirements for ice plants
  - Membership recruitment and retention
  - Ice Maker workshop/presentation
  - OVCA Events in the future: revamping the Mixed and City of Ottawa Men's and plan for the new events for 2023/24
  - Update from the World Men's Curling Championship
- The OVCA Symposium is planned for Saturday May 6, 2023. The hotel is being worked. Lunch, dinner, breakfast, hotel stay, and travel will be covered by the OVCA.
- It was noted that some clubs are willing to cover some of their costs
- Clubs should consider having several members from their club to attend due to the number of topics to be covered.
- John Shea's goal is for 80% of clubs to participate in the OVCA Symposium
- John Shea encouraged that meeting participants update their curling Boards regarding the planned OVCA Symposium

#### Strathcona Cup

- John Shea updated the clubs that the Strathcona Cup will be held from January 11 – February 3, 2023. It involves 60 Scottish Men's curlers coming to Canada to curl at clubs across Canada and 40 Canadian Women's curlers going to Scotland. The closing banquet will be held on February 2, 2023, at the Hunt Club.

## **15. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

The floor was opened for any additional questions and/or feedback:



- Bill Shorter (Deep River CC) raised a concern about the significant increase in insurance rate for their club. John Shea responded that it turns out that curling clubs under the BrokerLink program were paying a lot less than they should have been over the past 20 years and that rates have gone up for the group due to some major pay outs (e.g. fire, ice lost, etc). It was noted that the OVCA was also concerned about its insurance rate and had been shopping for better rates
- The OVCA Board was commended for planning to organize a Spring Symposium
- A question was raised whether the OVCA Mixed and Men's Events were coming back and the possibility of hiring a new Event Coordinator. John Tobias responded that the OVCA has been looking at how to get more clubs involved in OVCA events and that the OVCA has put forward a new event format proposal to run events at the regional level. John Shea added that the City and Mixed events were already struggling pre-Covid. Moving forward, we must change to make the events successful. The new Board will be discussing and putting forward a proposal at the May Symposium. The Board will decide if an Event Coordinator will be required.

There were no more questions nor comments.

John Tobias thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

Moved by: Cody Anderson (Navy)

Seconded by: Melvin Lee (OVCA Board)

There were no objections. The OVCA Annual General Meeting is adjourned at 8:42 pm.