

## 2021 OVCA AGM Minutes - September 27, 2021

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### 1. Meeting called to order

The 2021 OVCA AGM was held as a virtual meeting via MS Teams due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Forty-three participants (including 8 OVCA Board members), representing 23 OVCA member clubs joined the virtual meeting. Given that John Tobias, OVCA President, was joining the meeting from PEI and concerned about his connection being unstable and/or dropping, Paul Hennessey, Director of Communications, was asked to run the meeting. Paul Hennessey called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. The meeting was also recorded via MS Teams.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Bill Cheliak – Pembroke CC  
Seconded by: John Ellis – Almonte CC

That the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion is approved.

### 3. Introductions

Paul Hennessey introduced the current OVCA Board: John Tobias - President; John Blythe - Vice-President; Gord Butler - Treasurer; Lidia Cormier - Secretary; Ron Guilbault - Youth Director; Paul Hennessey - Director of Communications; Anne Davis - Director of Special Events; Brent Litle - New director who will be taking on the Club Liaison Director position; and, Bill Duck - Development Director (not present).

Paul Hennessey also introduced the OVCA Regional representatives who work with the Club Liaison Director to facilitate communications between member clubs and the OVCA: Lisa Taylor (Brockville CC) - South Regional Rep; Brent Litle (Carleton Place CC) - West Regional Rep; Alain Deschatelet (Buckingham CC) – Outaouais Regional Rep (not present). The OVCA is looking for representatives for the remaining three regions: Upper Ottawa Valley, Ottawa Centre and East Region.

**4. Moment of Silence**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes from the AGM of Monday October 26, 2020**

Moved by: Lisa Taylor – Brockville CC  
Seconded by: Richard Sarabura - City View CC

That the minutes from the AGM of October 26, 2020 be approved as presented.

The motion is approved.

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

None.

**7. Acknowledgement of Partner Associations**

a. Ladies Curling Association (LCA)

Paul Hennessey introduced Louise Howe, President of the LCA. Louise provided an overview of the LCA membership and bonspiels run by the LCA. The LCA will not be running any of their Fall bonspiels this year due to Covid-19. The LCA is still considering their plans for the LCA bonspiels scheduled in the new year and the LCA is looking for feedback from member clubs and teams regarding interest in participating in these bonspiels.

b. Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Paul Hennessey introduced David Brown and Matthew Kennerknecht from the Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. The Branch is planning to meet to determine the handling of Branch events for this year.

c. Curling Outaouais

Paul Hennessey introduced Roger Smith (from Curling des Collines), President of Curling Outaouais as of September 14, 2021. Roger Smith mentioned that Curling

Outaouais has 7 member clubs and that they would be hosting the Quebec Provincial Senior Men's and Women's events and the Club Championship event.

d. CurlON

Paul Hennessey introduced Elaine Brimicombe, CurlON President. Elaine Brimicombe started her update by recognizing that the CurlON office is on unceded Algonquin territory. Elaine acknowledged the successful pre-Olympic trial qualifier event held at the RA Centre last weekend. She also updated everyone regarding the CurlON clinics taking place for competitive curlers, the CurlON clinics being offered for recreational curlers, the CurlON Try Curling Now program and the CurlON 50-50 lottery.

e. Curling Canada

No update. No representative was available to join this year's OVCA AGM.

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

John Tobias, OVCA President, acknowledged and thanked the OVCA sponsors: Goldline, Hogline and Michael McFadden CIBC Wealth Management.

The President provided a summary update:

- John Shea will be taking on the Chair of the Board of Administrators position
- Based on member club's interest level, the OVCA will be offering a Learn To Curl – Train the Trainer clinic on October 17 and Bill Duck is looking for a host club for the clinic
- The OVCA's goal this past year has been to work on improving communications with member clubs. As such, the Club Liaison Director position is in place and regional representatives have been identified. Also, the OVCA web site has been revamped to make it easier to navigate and clubs can now enter their event information directly to the web site. It is hoped that the updated web site will be a good communication tool for member clubs.

The President then opened the floor for comments and/or questions from member clubs. There were no comments nor questions.

## **9. Directors' Reports**

Directors' reports were included in the AGM package. Some of the links to these reports however, were not working during the AGM and Paul Hennessey took the action to have the issues resolved.

John Blythe, OVCA Vice President, agreed to summarize his report during his presentation under New Business.

Ron Guilbault, OVCA Youth Director, reported that the Youth Symposium was successfully held as a virtual meeting on Saturday September 18. The Little Rocks Championship did not happen in 2021 due to Covid-19 and a call will be made for the 2022 Championships in November. Youth Curling Programs have resumed this year, free orphan clinics are planned to be run and the Superspiel Qualifier is planned to go ahead. The Youth Director also mentioned that the schedule for OVCA youth events will need to be revisited given the new dates for the Junior Provincial and National Championship events.

## **10. Financial Report**

Gord Butler, OVCA Treasurer, presented the financial information.

### **a. Review Engagement Report for 2020-21**

The finalized 2020-21 financial statements which have been reviewed by BDO were provided. Summary for 2020-21:

- expenses were lower than budget since all events were cancelled and the Event Coordinator contract was cancelled during the year.
- the deficit was directly related to OVCA fees for member clubs being waived for 2020-21
- Investments did well in 2020-21 and investment losses from the previous year have been recouped.

Gord also noted that member clubs are taking advantage of OVCA capital loans, with a total of \$180,000 in outstanding loans.

### **b. Budget 2021-2022 and Approval**

Gord presented the proposed budget for 2021-2022. Recognizing that clubs are still recouping from Covid-19 and getting their operations up and running, the

OVCA is providing a 50% discount on OVCA fees for this year. An overall deficit of \$9400 is being forecasted for 2021-2022.

Moved by: Bill Cheliak – Pembroke CC  
Seconded by: Cody Anderson – Navy CC

That the 2021-22 budget be approved as presented.

The motion is approved.

## **11. New Business**

### **a. OVCA Strategic Plan and Futures Presentation**

John Blythe, OVCA Vice-President, provided a verbal summary of his VP Report which listed key accomplishments for the year and included: working on the OVCA Futures Presentation, being part of the Ken Thain award committee and reviewing a number of grant submissions.

John Blythe then updated club members on the OVCA Strategic Plan 2022-2026, noting that it was not a new document but now presented in a new format. John Tobias provided background on the Strategic Plan indicating that the initiative to revisit the OVCA Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives took place two years ago and was reviewed and approved by the then Board and shared with member clubs in 2019. The plan is to keep the Strategic Plan as a living document reviewing and updating it as required on an annual basis.

John Blythe's OVCA Futures Presentation then focused on how the OVCA can structure itself to achieve the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan. Key items in the proposal:

- Run OVCA events as OVCA sponsored events, similar to the OVCA Superspiel, where hosting committees are established to run the event and the OVCA provides funding for the event. The OVCA Board would include an Events Director and an Events Assistant Director to help organize hosting committees for these events.
- Propose to create sponsored OVCA ladies and OVCA doubles events.
- Have a separate Director position to handle Major Events
- Propose that all formal communications be bilingual (e.g. minutes, club communiques, web site) by adding a bilingual Assistant Secretary Board position

- Consider other awards in addition to the Ken Thain award, such as a President's award for "best club", etc. Awards committee to be comprised of the Vice-President, Past President and a new Board Director member
- Work to an annual balanced budget with events being cost neutral
- The presentation included a proposed OVCA Organization Structure

The proposed next steps are:

- Member clubs to provide comments and feedback on the OVCA Strategic Plan and OVCA Futures Presentation
- OVCA to start recruiting new positions
- OVCA to start recruiting hosting committees for OVCA sponsored bonspiels for 2022-23
- OVCA to update its by-laws where required and ask for approval at next year's AGM

Comments, questions and feedback received at the AGM:

- "How much can we accomplish this year?". John Blythe responded that the documents are living and breathing and will continue to evolve. Changing the organization structure should be straightforward, but finding volunteers to fill in the new positions and recruiting host committees will be the challenge.
- Before the pandemic, the commercial sponsorship for events was the norm. It was suggested that the OVCA look at donations and other non-commercial ways to provide sponsorships for events going forward.
- It was stated that the proposal has not yet been Board approved and that it is important for clubs to review the information and provide input and feedback

An action was recorded for clubs to provide feedback on the Strategic Plan and OVCA Futures presentation by November 15. Paul to send out a communique to all member clubs on this.

## **12. Motion – Board Members 2021-2022**

Moved by: Lidia Cormier – OVCA Secretary

Seconded by: Mark Bodnar - Carleton Heights CC

That the OVCA Board of Directors for 2021-2022 be appointed as follows:

- President – John Tobias (Russell)
- Vice-President – John Blythe (Ottawa)
- Treasurer – Gord Butler (Navy)

- Secretary – Lidia Cormier (Huntley)
- Director Communications – Paul Hennessey (City View)
- Director Development – Bill Duck (Hunt Club)
- Director Youth Development – Ron Guilbault (Russell)
- Director - Club Liaison – Brent Litle (Carleton Place)
- Director – Special Events – Anne Davis (Metcalf)
- Past President – Al McPhee (Metcalf)

The motion is approved.

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

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

- Paul Armstrong (RA)
- Ryan Wilkes (Hunt Club)
- Jim Campbell (Russell)
- Richard Burroughs (Smiths Falls)

Given that this year's meeting was held virtually, the winners were announced and introduced by representatives from their club. Visits will be arranged for an OVCA representative to present the award to each winner at their home club.

### **14. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Paul Hennessey thanked all for participating in the AGM that was held virtually. His closing remarks noted that the "last two years have been the weirdest curling seasons. We think we see light at the end of the tunnel and we hope that this season can go off without a hitch".

Moved by: Anne McGahey (Smiths Falls)

Seconded by: Brent Kalk (Navan)

The OVCA Annual General Meeting is adjourned at 8:41 pm.