

October 17, 2023

TLBC 2023 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to everyone for coming out. This will be my last Annual General Meeting President's report.

During the last five years, together we all survived a pandemic and kept bowling. We successfully pressured the City of Delta to build us a lovely new facility. We completed our move into the new complex. The membership has doubled in size and its average age has gone down. We have a nice nest egg in the bank, which I will discuss later.

I know many of you are concerned with the powder or dust on our green, as the Board has been. We have recently convinced the City that the problem is real and serious. The City is now fully engaged and is putting great pressure on the contractor to fix the problem. The contractor has been out at the green twice in the last week working on the issue. I have no guarantees but I am confident the problem will be resolved prior to the beginning of our next summer season.

I want to thank the current Board members for all of their hard work. I don't want to name names, and will not do so, but when my current stint as President began five years ago, the Board was not functioning very well. The atmosphere at Board meetings was acrimonious. Meetings were long and unpleasant. One of our Board members actually refused to attend any further meetings due to that atmosphere. Fortunately the composition of the Board changed over time and it became a group of very hard working club members working well together to make the club better. Harmony amongst the Board members is very important. From the beginning of the pandemic, our current vice president and nominee for president, Ralph Walker, worked very closely with me, taking on numerous tasks, thereby reducing my work load. I am very heartened by the great group of members who have volunteered to work on the new Board. I am confident that the club will be in good hands.

We currently have in our bank account about \$45,000 in very rough terms. The Treasurer will give you the exact figure in her report. A couple of members have asked me why we are carrying such a large amount and suggested that we return that money to the members by waiving membership fees or reducing them. I have opposed any such move in the past because I believe that the club operates from a position of strength when it is financially healthy. By way of example, we expect the City of Delta to replace our carpet when it becomes worn in about 10 years but there is no assurance it will do so. We have a five year lease of our premises with one five year renewal. If the City wished to do so it could force the club to pay

for a replacement carpet in 10 years by refusing to enter into a new Lease agreement if the club did not pay for a new carpet. The current Mayor and Council would not do that, but who knows what a different group will do in ten years. We need a reserve to cover that possibility and other unforeseen events.

The new Board will face new issues. When I became President the Club was struggling with declining membership. Now the challenge will be to continue growing while training and integrating new members into the club. We are struggling with finding the right mix of competitive bowling events as contrasted with more recreational type events. The new Board will need to confront that issue.

Thank you all for your support and good wishes over the last five years. I am looking forward to spending less time managing and more time bowling.