

TLBC PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CARD)

2019 AGM

I. GOOD STUFF

- A. Membership has stabilized after having two good recruiting seasons.
- B. Club finances are solid and the Board is taking steps to ensure this stability continues.
- C. Strong working Board, hopefully to be supplemented by two more good Board members at this year's AGM.
- D. Good bowling weather this season; the Board does not take any credit for this.
- E. Club has secured a 10 year licence to use our current green for \$1 per year.
- F. Work has begun on our new clubhouse (soil surveys completed; architects retained and have started work;) target date for our occupancy is spring 2021. In meantime agreement has been reached to allow us to continue to occupy current clubhouse until new clubhouse is ready.
- G. New Horizons Grant for Seniors was obtained in amount of \$23,500. Funds will be used to purchase a water fountain/water bottle refiller on the deck adjacent to the green, new shade umbrellas, a good used mower for the green, improvements to the brick deck to reduce need to weed, safety grab bars and if money is left over a few more goodies. All funds need to be spent by May 2020.

II. NEEDS IMPROVEMENT/STEPS TO TAKE

- A. Many new members and some more senior members do not know how the Ranking Committee works. Here is a summary:
 - Purpose: to split the club membership into 4 groups consisting of the four positions on a lawn bowling team of four members, lead, second, vice-skip and skip, in order to allow random draw teams to be formed which are more or less equal in strength by choosing teams which have a skip, a lead and one or both of a vice-skip or second.
 - Composition: four to six members of the Club chosen by the Board. The composition of the Ranking Committee has not been disclosed to the membership generally in order to deter lobbying by members for a higher ranking or other forms of pressure on the volunteer members of the Ranking Committee.
 - How does the Ranking Committee work? Members of the Ranking Committee make a special effort to observe how members are bowling and make notes. Generally twice per year (about June and September), and more often if special situations arise, the Ranking Committee meets and as a group determines if any bowler should have his or her position ranking revised upward.
 - What standard is applied? There are international bowls standards which set benchmarks which must be met in order to achieve each positional ranking. Those

standards are on the Club bulletin board and have been for many years. However those standards are unrealistically high for the club level so a more subjective standard is applied to try to determine what positional ranking suits each member best based upon his or her skill level and other attributes, for example, leadership, sportsmanship and knowledge of the Rules of Bowls. It is admittedly a subjective exercise.

- Concerns as to positional ranking: Any concerns about a member's positional ranking, or lobbying for a higher ranking, should be addressed to the President who will review those concerns with the Ranking Committee and report back to the member the further decision of the Ranking Committee.
 - What happened this year? For a number of reasons, while the Ranking Committee met in June and made a number (not many) decisions to rank members higher these decisions were not communicated to the members. This was a mistake and the Board takes responsibility for it.
 - What will be happening to get the Ranking Committee back on track? Several new members of the Ranking Committee will be appointed by the Board. The Ranking Committee will meet prior to November 15 and determine which members need to be re-ranked upward. Those decisions will then be communicated to the members by email and will be effective at the beginning of next bowling season.
 - Quirk: Many years ago the Club decided that it would not re-rank members lower unless a member requested a lower ranking, even if deteriorating skills indicated that such a re-ranking was in order. The decision was made for compassionate and practical reasons. It is difficult to tell a skip that he or she can no longer do the job. Re-ranking members lower can also cause such dissension in a club that clubs have literally split up. There is an exception to this rule. Where it is very clear that due to a mental or physical disability a member can no longer perform the duties of a skip or vice-skip that member will be asked to accept a lower re-ranking. These situations are difficult and are dealt with at the Board level with discretion and compassion.
- B. One of our members did not understand how the ranking system worked and wrote an anonymous letter to the President and others expressing his or her concern with its workings. Please, if you have a concern or a complaint, address it to me, the President, by letter, by email, by phone or in person. Your complaint will be addressed.
- C. While the Club has managed to recruit new members and convince them to join the Club after their lessons, we have not done a good job of integrating the new members into the Club. Our proposed new co-head coaches, George McCarter and Betty Cooper, have some great ideas to help us solve this problem. The Board will vigorously support their efforts. Stay tuned.
- D. Our green was not up to our usual standard this year, especially toward the end of the season. Our turf consultant for the past seven years retired and we have gone through a learning experience with the new consultant. We have taken a number of steps to rectify

- the problem, including purchasing a high tech moisture content meter, and moving to a three times per year aeration program. We are confident we will see the results next year.
- E. Participation in championship, trophy and other all day events has been declining for a number of years, and this past year was no exception. While the Board and the Games Committee are very concerned with this trend we have no immediate solution to it. We will continue to monitor the situation and try to take steps to improve it. All suggestions are welcome.

III. Announcements

- A. Fundraising events:
- Meridian has allowed us to purchase more gift cards. Remember, they don't expire, you can buy any amount you want from \$20 to unlimited, but this will probably be the last opportunity. Karen Walker and Laurel Scott will be organizing this event in November so you can have your new gift cards in time for Christmas shopping.
 - Laurel Scott will be selling poinsettias again this year.
 - Plaques on benches are available for sale until October 18.
 - Thrifty's Smile Cards continue to be available. Contact David Fredricksen for more information or to get a card.
- B. "Beverage" prices have gone up, so effective January 1, 2020 all fridge beverages, other than soft drinks, will cost \$4.00.

IV. Thank You

Thanks to all of the hard working members of the Board and to the many volunteers that make this club work. I look forward to working with you all over the next year.