

**UNITED STATES LAWN BOWLS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL NATIONAL COUNCIL
DOUBLETREE INN, BERKELEY, CA
SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**

President Colin Smith gaveled the meeting to order at 9:07 AM on September 11, 2008.

Flowers of the Forest was observed for all members of the bowling community that passed on during the year. We were also asked to remember Councilor Heather Stewart whose brother was killed in a motor vehicle accident in South Africa. President Smith reminded the Council of the September 11th tragedy in New York. Marion Wall, Southeast Division was also remembered and we remember our former National Treasurer, Judy Patrizzi who passed away this past spring.

Secretary Tom Kees called the roll. The following Councilors were present: Pat Mueller and Steve Nelson, Central Division; Eileen Luba and Patrick Duffy, Northeast Division; Donna West, Northwest Division; Sandy Souza and Frank Ransome, Pacific Inter Mountain Division; Dora Stewart and Marty Schans, South Central Division; Al Pelliccio, Southeast Division; Sam DeLisle, Southwest Division. Representing Heather Stewart with assigned proxy, Carrie Fossati, Southwest Division, Donna West held the proxy for Richard Broad. Muriel resigned as Councilor of the Southeast Division and no replacement was named.

Secretary Kees declared that a quorum was present.

President Smith led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Smith welcomed Steve Nelson, Pat Mueller, Central Division; Richard, Northwest Division and Heather Stewart, Southwest Division as new Councilors.

There were no additions or deletions to the docket and the docket was approved by voice, 15 – 0.

The reading of the Minutes of the National council meeting, Costa Mesa, CA, October 13, 2007 was dispensed and the Minutes were approved as submitted on a motion by Councilor Luba, seconded by Councilor Schans and the motion carried 15 – 0.

President Smith read his report to the Council. The President's report was accepted as read on a motion by Councilor Stewart, seconded by Councilor Duffy and the motion carried 15-0 (attachment #1).

National Secretary's report (attachment #2) was accepted as submitted without any corrections. Kees asked that the Council pay particular attention to the Archives finding on the various trophies as they pertain to the U.S. Open. A motion by Councilor Schans, seconded by Councilor Ransome that the Minutes be accepted as submitted, the motion carried 15 – 0.

National Treasurer Brian Studwell reported on the financial statements. He also commented on the number of members in USLBA noting that there is a continuing decline in membership with a loss of 670 members since 2002. The Northwest and the Southwest Divisions showed an increase in 2008 while the decline continued in other divisions. He reviewed what the Southwest did and the program that they used to get the increase. Brian reported that the federal tax returns had been filed and no exceptions were found in the filings. He also reviewed the final accounting for the fiscal year 2007 and it showed a loss of \$2,026.01. Brian also reviewed the current Profit and Loss for 2008 and it would appear as though we will have a slight surplus. The Balance Sheet as of 9/8/08 indicates a slight improvement in our cash position from approximately \$54,000 to \$57,683.04 and this does not include some estimated \$20,000 in the Team USA account.

Brian reviewed the process by which he established the 2009 Budget by reviewing the budget assumptions and then reviewed the actual numbers of the 2009 budget which indicated as estimated surplus of \$4,365.

Brian then reviewed his recommendations for 2009. Item #1 remains a problem and nothing has been accomplished since the last AGM. The Council must take action. (During the latter stage of the meeting, it was announced that the financial transfer had been finalized and the check sent to Brian). There is an urgent need to follow the standardized reporting format (Excel) for Roster data and Brian asked that all Councilors remind the Division Secretaries to do so. Item #6 the Website, Brian recommends that we do the following with regard to the content and usability. He recommends the following: Someone to supervise the additions of content to the website; secure email distribution listing; marketing of products using Pay Pal or Credit card systems for payment. This proposal should come from Kathy Alton and Athol Foden and sent to the National Treasurer.

The Council was to have received a proposal from Mike Maneilly for future publications of Bowls USA discussing several options. No report has been received as of this date. Last year we discussed an Annual year book with monthly newsletters as one option.

Brian believes that timely news items on the website, helpful hints to bowlers, rules up dates, complete and accurate listing of bowls facilities in the United States ought to be on our website and we ought to consider listing all clubs not just USLBA affiliated clubs.

National Team Selection Report:

Men – Jack Lucey report attached

Women – no report received

Hall of Fame – Councilor Stewart, Chairperson

Two new nominees – Douglas McArthur & Dora Stewart

Returning nominee – Donna West

After considerable discussion, it was decided that since the nomination of Dora Stewart was received late, this nomination would not be considered this year but will be entered in

2009.* The biographical data for Donna West was not included in this years package and it was decided that her nomination would be deferred until 2009 and carried forward until 2010.

Councilor Stewart reminded us of the qualifications for election to the Hall of Fame before we cast any votes. Voting on the candidate will take place later in the meeting.

Championships:

United States Championships: the original sites – Newport Harbor, CA for 2009 and Pinehurst, NC for 2010 is no longer available. Councilor Ransome indicated that PIM Division would consider hosting the U.S. Championships for 2009 but it must come before their Division Board. Their Board will be meeting on the first Saturday of December 2008.

Councilor DeLisle asked that since we do not have a positive commitment, the Secretary should be sending out weekly emails to members of the National Council urging them to try and get a Club to commit. Much discussion ensued. Treasurer Studwell indicated that the apparent problem was the work and expense needed to host this event and he suggested that we streamline the requirements. This thought was echoed by Councilor Ransome. There was more discussion about the various items that were provided by the various Divisions and it was acknowledged that we seem to be in a game of one-upmanship. It was decided by general consent we should agree to minimum requirements needed stage the U. S. Championships and they be published. Secretary Kees was directed to provide the National Councilors with a specific write-up that will outline the minimum requirements for conducting the U.S. Championships. Once the initial document is complete, it will be forwarded electronically to all Councilors for their review and editing. It is noted that the following items are recommended:

- ✓ Opening ceremony – The Host Division may determine how elaborate,
- ✓ Pins/plaques – USLBA responsibility,
- ✓ Banquet – The Host Division may determine how elaborate,
- ✓ Markers/scorers must be provided by the Host Club.

Team shirts will not be the responsibility of the National Council, lunches are the responsibility of the individual contestants (the Host Club may make them available for a fee), and all other amenities offered are optional by the Host Club or Host Division.

United States Open:

Councilor Stewart reported that the United States Open will be held in Sun Cit, AZ, dates are 10/24 – 30/09. The specific venues will be announced at a later date but all of the greens have been approved.

Councilor DeLisle laid the following proposal on the table for consideration: The Southwest Division will agree to host the United States Open for a period of 5 years stating with the year 2010 through 2014. The reasoning for this proposal is the same as was offered last year. With the venue the same, it is felt that there is a possibility of securing a major sponsor. If a major sponsor is secured, the Southwest Division will reduce the \$6,000 stipend to \$5,000. Councilor Schans made a motion that the National Council accept the

Southwest Division's proposal to host the United States Open for a period of 5 years, from 2010 to 2014, the motion was seconded by Councilor West. There ensued a general discussion and the question was called. The Council voted 13 in favor, 1 no vote and not voting, the motion carried.

North American Challenge:

There will be no NAC for the year 2009. The Canadian organization has opted for every other year. The Milwaukee LBC has made the offer to host the NAC for the year 2010 and it will probably be held in August.

There are two international events on the calendar: The Atlantic Rim games in 2009 which will probably be held in South Africa and the Asia Pacific games, the venue has not yet been finalized. The other international events are the Champion of Champions and the World Indoor Singles Championships. Other events are Tiger Bowls and Malaysia Indoor Singles which is an invitational tournament who participants are selected by the NTS.

"Laws of the Game" Report by John Stewart was accepted as submitted. Councilor Nelson asked for consideration by the National Council for a discussion of the "Hammer" rule. This request comes from the Central Division Board. Councilor Schans offered a proposal that all Divisions be advised to submit any proposed rule changes with rationale to Chairperson John Stewart, Rules committee, and direct John to review them with his committee and make proposals to the National Council for discussion and action before the meeting of the World Bowls Rules Committee. President Smith spoke on behalf of the Council opining that all requests for rule changes should be made at the behest of the Council and not by our Rules Chairperson. This would be the most effective manner and carry more weight with World Bowls. Both Councilors Schans and Nelson asked that this be communicated with the Divisions via email.

Councilor DeLisle asked who comprised the Rules committee. No one was certain other than John Stewart, Conrad Melton and no one was certain of any other names. Secretary Kees was instructed to ask John for the names of those members of the committee.

President Smith asked the Secretary to have the names of the committee members included in any of their yearly reports.

Councilor Nelson asked for clarification of dress code as defined in the Rules of the Game. He gave an example that under the current rule, if the Singles representative decides to wear shorts; by the rule the Pairs representatives must also wear shorts even though they are playing on a different rink or green. It was generally agreed that if we eliminate the parenthesis so that a Singles player constitutes a team by themselves and not be lumped together with the Pairs Team, this would correct the situation. President Smith will communicate this information to the Rules Chairman. Councilor DeLisle offered a motion that the current rule of the dress code not be enforced at the U.S. Championships for the year 2008 as specified for teams, alternate Councilor Fossati provided the second and the motion carried by a vote of 14—0 with 2 no vote - absent.

Alternate Councilor Fossati asked if the dress code for the U.S. Championships and the U.S. Open could be standardized. She also noted that rules also indicate that when wearing sandals, the rule states that one must wear socks. Presidential nominee related that during her former regime that the Council had eliminated that rule. President Smith asked that the Southwest Board submit a request to John Stewart so that this matter can be resolved at our next meeting.

Instruction Report by Councilor Ransome was accepted as submitted. Councilor Ransome also pointed out that we should begin the process of standardization with the goal in mind of having “The USLBA” of doing things. Councilor Schans spoke to the point of the need for younger members and the need for flexibility. He believes that we ought to revisit the “At Large” membership where the individual could be able to belong to USLBA without having to join a club. There was a general discussion about various things that have been tried in order to attract new bowlers. Several expressed the notion that we should be concentrating on having the “new Bowlers” enjoy what they are doing and having fun. We also ought to stress the camaraderie among club members, not just bowl and go home. Councilor Nelson expressed the desire that USLBA must lead the way in marketing the sport.

General discussion ensued about this subject including the need for a paid employee, funding for a marketing program, etc. Councilors Schans, DeLisle, Ransome offered many comments and suggestions as to the course of action. Treasurer Studwell made the following suggestion:

1. Provide a base salary i.e. \$25,000 per year and the duties are to assist the Divisions in running Open houses, membership clinics, etc. for the avowed purpose of increasing the membership of USLBA.
2. Another facet of this person’s duties is to raise funds from major donors in support of USLBA. Structure the salary plus using a portion of the major funds as an added incentive i.e. raises \$100,000 for USLBA = split 35% to the CEO and 65% to USLBA general fund.

Councilor Nelson opined that we must use BOWLS USA as a marketing tool and not just who won what tournament and the favorite receipt of Aunt Maude. We must market the sport to group participation that is fun and not just concentrate on the competitive aspect. Treasurer Studwell was asked to commit his proposal to a written format for serious consideration by the Council. Studwell agreed to do that if he had the unanimous backing of the Council. There was some discussion about the funding but it was agreed that Brian’s proposal would contain financial estimates.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 12:05 PM.

President Smith gaveled the meeting to order at 1:10 PM

The Head Umpires report was accepted as submitted.

Super Shots, no report was received. Eileen Love will be stepping down at the end of the year.

Constitution and by-laws report was accepted as submitted. The following amendments to the USLBA constitution were submitted by the South Central division within the time parameters specified by the constitution.

- ✓ Proposed constitutional amendment from the South Central Division reads: Membership, Item D to be amended to read as follows: Members in good standing, of any club in the states of Alaska and Hawaii and the territories of America Samoa, Guam and Puerto Rico, trust territories of the Pacific, Virgin Islands *and areas of any state with no affiliated club accepting members within reasonable driving distance* are entitled to membership “At Large” in the Association, but may choose to affiliate within a Division.

A great deal of discussion ensued as the advisability of this amendment because it infringes on the prerogatives and constitutions of each division which varies by Division. Much of the discussion centered around two issues – Must you join a club? What is a reasonable driving distance? What are the restrictions when it comes to the “play-downs”? It undermines what the Divisions are trying to accomplish according to Councilor DeLisle. The problem raised by this amendment can best be solved by changing or modifying the constitution of the South Central Division. President Smith called the question. **The Council voted 2 in favor and 13 opposed, the motion by the South Central Division was not approved and the amendment failed.**

- ✓ Proposed constitutional amendment from the South Central Division reads:
- ✓ Item E (new) *Any member who belongs to more than one Division and pays both Division and National dues in each Division in which they are active, must choose a home club in only one Division.*
- ✓ Item F (new) *No USLBA member shall name a home club in more than one Division.*

After much discussion it was generally believed that the information contained in the proposed amendment was Division business. **The question was called and the motion was denied, the amendment failed.**

- ✓ Proposed constitutional amendment by the South Central Division reads: Under Council, Item #7:
- ✓ Add the following, “*with their home club in the Division in which they have been elected Councilor.*”
- ✓ A brief discussion ensued and the general tenor of all comments was that this is also a Division’s business and should not be part of the USLBC Council responsibility or part of the USLBA constitution. **The question was called and the vote was 2 for and 13 opposed, the motion was defeated.**

Marketing report by Kathleen Alton was submitted and accepted as written. There were some comments by Studwell questioning the financial statement and he agreed to work with Kathy in order to produce a correct financial statement for the Council. Kathy is also

working with various new sources for merchandise and she is also working to get illustrations or pictures of the merchandise on the new Website. She will work out the details with Athol Foden on the Website, Howard Harris on the sale of merchandise and Brian Studwell on the correct way of submitting a financial statement.

Golden Bias Club report as of the end of august was submitted by Chairperson Annette Schans and accepted as submitted. Compliments were made to various members of the committee who have worked very hard to make this a success operation. Income and expenses were reviewed. The report was accepted as submitted.

A question as to whether the Golden Bias Club is part of USLBA and if it is, then the Council should have control over how the funds are distributed. The general consensus of the Council was that the Golden Bias Club was a booster club and outside the purview of the Council.

Councilor Nelson asked that the Golden Bias Club consider having tiered membership. This would allow those who could afford a greater contribution to do so in support of Team USA. It was suggested that Golden Bias consider a 10 year pin since the bars are getting too long.

Website report was given by Colin Smith and accepted as submitted. The following items were discussed:

- Who will monitor the information that should be included on the website/
- Will there be an electronic version of Bowls USA in the website?
- We should own the name USLBA.org, Athol is currently working on doing that.
- Is there a link to Divisional websites? Not all Divisions have a website.
- Councilor Schans indicated that in order to have a more means of communication, we should encourage all Divisions to have a website. If all Divisions had a website, we could reduce the necessity of Bowls USA.
- Treasurer Studwell opined that the Executive Board is the one that should set the policy about what will be accepted and then someone can be appointed as the gatekeeper. Councilor Nelson made a motion that the Executive Board be the body that sets policy for the content on the website and that the Vice President be assigned the chairperson to oversee this activity, the motion was seconded by Councilor Ransome and the motion carried 15 – 0.

Historian report by Secretary Tom Kees was accepted as written. He reviewed the methodology of his research and his findings.

Bowls USA report as submitted by Trevor Colby was accepted as submitted. Treasurer Studwell indicated that Mike Maneilly had agreed to submit a report with several proposed scenarios about the future of Bowls USA but Studwell had not received any of the proposals. As a result, the budget does not reflect any changes. One of the proposals made at the last AGM was to have an Annual to be published once a year and then to have a series of newsletters available on our Website. Councilor Schans asked Councilor Pelliccio

if he would contact Mike and see if the report is available. If so, could we get a copy, Councilor Pelliccio agreed to make contact with Mike. Until we have some sort of proposal, we will continue to publish the magazine.

Unfinished Business:

The question was brought up about the funds that are being held by Bob Lane and why haven't they been transferred. Councilor Stewart volunteered to make a call and see the current status of the situation. Later in the meeting, it was confirmed that the funds had indeed be transferred.

Alternate Councilor Fossati asked if there was a means of using some of the funds allocated for the Bowls USA for funding the proposed CEO. President Smith indicated that we would have to continue along the same course of printing BOWLS USA for the remainder of the year. We would have to set up the new Website so that the paid members of USLBA could access the Website and receive the magazine electronically. If this is done we could save a substantial amount of money on postage. We should encourage our membership to "Go Green" and receive the magazine electronically. We must make the magazine available but we must also devise a system so that only members of USLBA can access the system and until this is accomplished, we will continue to publish BOWLS USA as usual.

The Council requests that Mike Maneilly provide the Council with some sort of report with several proposals as to how we should proceed. When they are received, the Council directs the National Secretary to forward them to the National Councilors for review and to vote on the manner in which we will proceed. We cannot wait for another year to go by.

Treasurer Studwell asked that when his proposal on the Marketing Manager is finally submitted that the National Secretary be directed to forward the report of all Councilors for consideration and corrections or additions. After a period of several weeks, that the National Secretary be directed to conduct a Council vote on the proposal. The council approved of this suggestion.

Councilor Schans brought up the subject of additional revenue that we will need. One of the past suggestions was to assess each entrant in the U. S. Open a fee of \$3.00 up to \$5.00 and these funds to be returned to the National council. Treasurer Studwell stated that any tampering with the U.S. Open would probably result in a lessening of entrants since the current format and policy is to pay out as much as possible. Studwell recommends that we not tamper with a very successful tournament and that sentiment was echoed through the Council.

Councilor Nelson indicated that the Council voted in 2005 to call the first place winners as Gold medalist and the second place winners as Silver medalist. We should instruct Bowls USA to designate the winners as Gold Medal and Silver Medal winners. The Council instructed the National Secretary to notify the Editor of Bowls USA of this policy. USLBA has created Gold medal pins for first place in the U.S. Championships and Silver medal pins for the second placed winners and they are in the possession of Linda McDougall. The new medals are for the U.S. Open.

New Business:

The report of the Nominating Committee as submitted by Chairperson Annette Schans was accepted as submitted. The following slate of officers is:

- Isabella Forbes – President
- Marty Schans – Vice President
- Tom Kees – National Secretary
- Brian Studwell – National Treasurer
- National Team Selectors:
 - Sam DeLisle - 2009-2014 (5 year term)
 - Isabella Forbes – 2009-2014 (5 year term)
- International Delegates:
 - Jack Lucey
 - Isabella Forbes

The floor was opened for any additional nominees. No additional nominees were offered. A motion was made by Councilor Souza that the floor be closed, the motion was seconded and the motion passed. Councilor Luba made motion to elect the slate of officers as submitted by the Nominating committee, seconded by Councilor Duffy and the Council voted to elect the slate officers by a vote of 15-0.

The Hall of Fame elections: The only nominee up for election is Douglas McArthur. The Council voted and no persons were elected to the Hall of Fame for the calendar year 2008.

Renaming of the U.S. Open and the USLBA Championships: Councilor Ransome made the motion to change the U.S National Open to read U.S. Open and the U.S. Championship to read U. S. National Championships, the motion was seconded and the motion carried 15-0. Councilor Nelson asked that all appropriate documents be changed to reflect the new names. The new Rule book will be changed when it is issued but the Policy and Procedures manual will be reissued to reflect the new names.

President Smith is in receipt of letter announcing a new bowls testing facility in Calgary, Canada and we will keep the Council informed when and if it is operational.

Councilor DeLisle gave a presentation of the Michael Ashton Phillips (MAP). DeLisle gave a synopsis of the history of the event. Councilor DeLisle also indicated that they were working with the Memorial Fund Corporation so that they could receive a tax deduction for a major sponsor and that 10% of the sponsorship would be retained by the Memorial Fund Corporation. What is required is that the USLBA Council sanctions the MAP tournament. **Councilor DeLisle offered a motion that the USLBA Council sanctions the Michael Ashton Phillips tournament, the motion was seconded by Councilor Schans and the motion carried 15-0.**

Dues proposal: Councilor West made a motion to raise the annual dues from \$10.00 to \$20.00 effective with the new fiscal year 2009, the motion was seconded by Councilor Schans and the floor was opened for discussion. A general discussion ensued outlining the

need, the timing, etc. It was noted that the last time that dues were raised was 1974 by ALBA and the dues have remained the same since the inception of AWLBA in 1976. Councilor DeLisle opined that USLBA does not have a good track record of accomplishments and quite frankly, we still do not. Alternate Councilor Fossati thought that we ought to delay any vote until the Councilors had the opportunity to review the proposal with their Divisions. We are long on promises and short on delivery. Treasurer Studwell gave his opinion that we must show a concrete benefit before we raise dues. The following Councilors participated in this very lengthy discussion: DeLisle, West, Ransome, Souza, Schans, Nelson as well as Studwell, Harris. The question was called and the motion was denied. President Smith asked for a motion to table the prior motion until such time that we have received a proposal from Treasurer Studwell. Councilor Schans made a motion to table the original motion, seconded by Councilor Ransome and the motion carried 15-0. The Council further assigned the National Secretary the responsibility of disseminating the proposal for review by the Council and accept additions or deletions. He will then amend the document and submit it to the Council electronically for a vote.

The Council gave their approval to change the wording in the constitution from “required” to “desired but not required” in the section relating to potential officers. The Council directed that National Secretary to prepare a constitutional amend that reflects the new wording. The amendment will be sent out electronically for a vote adhering to the 60 day voting provision.

Membership: Secretary Kees discussed the possibility of exploring vacant supermarkets along with a bar and grill as another avenue that we might consider. Treasurer Studwell agreed to formulate a business plan for review by the Council.

Council representation: Councilor Schans brought the subject of having a Councilor for each vote in the Southwest Division. Further, he believes that such a move would enrich the Council, provide greater diversity, expand the pool of potential officers and it would not disturb the present voting procedures. Councilor Schans put forth a motion to amend the USLBA constitution to allow any division that meets the requirement for multiple votes to have a Councilor for each voting privilege, Councilor Ransome seconded the motion. Since this is a constitutional amendment, it will require a 60 day waiting period once the amendment is in the hands of each Councilor. However, President Smith conducted a straw poll and it passed overwhelmingly. The National Secretary will send out the amendment and request a vote electronically.

Central Division amendment request for support from the National Council in requesting changes to the Hammer rule as listed in Section 5, 18.4. Since this proposal came from a Division, it requires no second. The floor was opened for discussion. It was decided that the Rules committee would make any proposed changes to the USLBA National Council for their consideration and approval. If the Council agrees to the proposed changes, they will endorse the changes and forward them to World Bowls in sufficient time for the next addition to the Rules of the Game book. Councilor Schans asked to amend the motion to include all changes requested by the Divisions and to include the Central Division’s amendment within the list. It was hoped that these proposed changes could be received and

sent to the Council before January 1, 2009. Secretary Kees was instructed to so notify John Stewart.

There was a discussion about holding more than one meeting per year. It was suggested that this meeting could be held telephonically and the cost of such a meeting would be relatively inexpensive. It was further suggested that the Executive Board should meet mid year and to do it telephonically to discuss any pressing issues that are urgent. President Smith indicated that the new President would make that decision but that the suggestion was a worthwhile one. It was suggested that the Minutes of the annual meeting be posted on the USLBA Website and the Council instructed the National Secretary to post the final approved Minutes.

The next annual meeting of the USLBA National Council will be held on October 22, 2009 And October 23, 2009 (if necessary).

The Council as a committee of the whole gave outgoing President Smith a round of applause for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. President Smith thanked all of those who helped him in the conduct of his duties.

Councilor Ransome made the motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM.

Tom Kees, National Secretary
United States Lawn Bowls Association.