

Bath Pickleball Club
Annual General Meeting Minutes
11 September 2024

Tim Salmon opened the meeting, declaring that 49 members exceeds our minimum of 10% of our total membership, which is currently at 269. A list of all attendees is in a separate document. Tim also apologized to our members that are still working, and therefore did not have a chance to attend. Unusual circumstances required us to reschedule the AGM to this day, as we normally try to hold them on a Saturday.

1. Agenda

The agenda was made available prior to the meeting.

Motion to accept agenda: Liz Newell

Seconded: Tony Moura

Vote: Motion carried

2. Minutes from last year's AGM

The minutes were resent to members prior to the meeting.

Motion to accept minutes: Wendy Abreo

Seconded: Grant Lindsay

Vote: Motion carried

Before turning it over to the President, Tim explained why we have a separate Board of Directors and an Executive Committee, and what their respective roles are. This was the first year that the two organizations were completely separate (in previous years, Tim was the president as well as on the Board).

3. Presidents Report – Judy Janzen

Judy introduced the members of the Executive Committee, and each of their primary responsibilities.

Judy reviewed the Club's past 12 months, starting with the indoor season last fall. The Executive Committee learned of the fire at the old arena, completely destroying it, and had to scramble to find an alternative venue for the Club. The EC secured a new venue for the fall session, and within a week we were registered and playing. The members of the EC plus Wanda Daoust, the indoor program coordinator, worked extremely hard to make this happen.

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Judy then reviewed the outdoor season. The Club has grown to 269 members, despite a significant number who did not renew, as many new members have joined. The Social Committee did some new things this year, as two members of the EC opened their homes for a social event, which were both well attended and well received. The Club thanks Jane McQueen and Janice Clapp for these special events.

The increase in membership came with some challenges, including longer wait times at the courts on some days. The EC will look into some options on how to resolve this.

John Gemmill took the lead for equipment management, and the Club purchased a new net, a leaf blower, new balls, and an “awesome” squeegee.

The Club offered “Learn to Play” clinics, “Novice” clinics, “Intermediate Skill and Drill” clinics, and even brought in an outside pro for a full day of various Intermediate and Advanced clinics. We also offered “Gentle Play” courts, and a “Buddy Play” night, for those needing a little extra time to feel confident in their game. All this required countless volunteers to help out – thank you all.

Judy announced the creation of two new subcommittees – a Player Development Committee, and a Photography and Video Committee.

Judy then announced some changes to the EC. Nancy Willis, Treasurer, will leave and be replaced by Sharon Fellows. Jane McQueen will also leave and be replaced by Bob Stevens. Judy will step down as President and be replaced by Grant Lindsay, currently the VP. Janice Clapp is also leaving the EC as Social Coordinator. Judy then asked if anyone else would like to step up and help run the Club as part of the EC, to let her or Grant know.

For the upcoming indoor season, the EC tried to secure the Boys & Girls Club, but were unsuccessful.

Judy thanked all members for playing together in a respectful manner, even when the courts were busy. She also thanked all the members who helped open and close the courts throughout the season.

Motion to accept the President’s report: Laura Forkes
Seconded: Don Gardiner
Vote: Motion carried

Tim then acknowledged and thanked the EC for all their hard work, especially the manner in which they saved the indoor season last year.

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4. Treasurer Report – Judy Janzen

As Nancy could not attend the meeting, Judy read out the financial report. The indoor season last year yielded a smaller than usual profit, due to the higher venue costs. The outdoor season was also negatively impacted by an increase to the cost of the lease from the Township. If you consider the pending costs to hit the statement by the end of the outdoor season, the Club balance will be about \$8000.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Laurie Brown

Seconded: Sharon Fellows

Vote: Motion carried

5. Nomination for Board of Directors

Tim started with an apology that the standard last call for nominations did not go out prior to the meeting. It was a miscommunication with the EC, which Tim takes full responsibility for.

Tim made it clear that the current Board, who he then introduced (Mike Zuwerkalow and Lou Carpentier) are still intact, and we were not in a position where we needed new directors. The Club's By-laws state that the Board must have a minimum of three Directors, and a maximum of five.

Tim then explained that earlier this year, the Board decided it was time to bring in a new member. This would provide a "fresh set of eyes" on things, as well as provide continuity for the future. A nomination fell into our laps, as Mike Daoust agreed to be considered. Tim took a few minutes to talk about Mike's background and why we think he would be a good addition.

Motion to elect Mike Daoust to the Board: Peter Burrell

Seconded: Grant Lindsay

Vote: Motion carried

6. Membership fees

Tim informed the members what was going on at the Township. They are trying to increase revenue from all sources, rather than simply raising property taxes. The Recreation Department, as a result, did a rate review of all their facilities and have implemented a new rate schedule. This resulted in an increase this year for the Club, and an increase every subsequent year until 2030. The lease cost to the Club will increase from \$1100 in 2023, to almost \$5000 by 2030.

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In order to breakeven over this time, our Club membership fees will increase from \$20 to at least \$35. While this might sound like a lot, it will still be the “best deal in town”. The members attending the meeting agreed.

Tim then announced there were two things happening near us that could affect the Club:

- a. Loyalist Township is putting together a new 10-year Recreation Plan. Perhaps because we have been quite vocal about the growing demand for pickleball, especially for an indoor facility, the Club received an additional survey. In that survey, we were asked if we would be willing to contribute funds for a new facility.
- b. The Town of Napanee is also beginning the process of deciding what to do in light of the recent destruction of the old arena. The Napanee Club are letting the Town know their position with a letter, and plan on addressing their Town Council soon. Our Club will see if there is an opportunity for our voice to be heard as well.

Given these two potential opportunities, and the possible need for ability to contribute funds in order to influence them, the Board of Directors decided to create an Opportunity Reserve Fund. It will be funded from the surpluses we have in our annual operating budgets. For this reason, we have decided to implement the increase to \$35 effective for the membership year 2025, instead of incremental increases each year. Tim highlighted the fact that this new rate was based on assumptions about Club membership levels, Club operating costs, and that the Township won't adjust their proposed increases in the coming years.

Tim went on to explain that the Board is writing a policy to put in place the rules for managing this fund, how long it will exist, using the fund, and in the event of it not being used, how it will be absorbed back into the operating funds of the Club. Any use of the funds will require a vote by the members. This policy will be posted on our website with our other policies.

7. Open Q&A

There was much discussion around competitive play. Some members want more courts allocated to competitive play, as they feel their wait time between games is longer than that of social play. Judy explained that the EC try to balance social play courts and competitive, but it is not easy. The competitive games take longer, which means wait times can be longer, but you would have spent longer on the court as well. Increasing the number of competitive courts would likely drive some people who normally play on the social courts to move to competitive, which may or may not be what the

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“competitive play” members want. A few suggestions came from some members on how to arrange competitive play, but many of the members present spoke out about how they like the current set up. Grant then addressed the group and explained that he used to play at a Club in Ottawa and did not appreciate the way they segregated members by skill level, and why he likes our Club so much. We are primarily a social play club, and he intends to maintain that during his term as president.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Laura Forkes

Second: Pat Moore

Vote: Motion carried

Attendees (registered)

Jude Abreo	Karen Knowles
Wendy Abreo	George Krueger
Annie Belcourt	Rob Laur
Laurie Brown	Grant Lindsay (EC)
Pete Burrell	Doug McBride
Ron Cairns	Dugald McMartin
Lou Carpentier (BoD)	Nancy McMartin
Barb Cathcart	John Moore
Fern Colson	Patrick Moore
Mike Daoust	Mike Mountenay
Wanda Daoust	Tony Moura
Christine Downey	Nathalie Najem
Janie Edwin-Duggan	Elizabeth Newell
Sharon Fellows	Ray Noble
Laura Forkes	Dan Resmer
Don Gardner	Anna Salmon
John Gemmill (EC)	Tim Salmon (BoD)
Jan Golland	Ann Sinkinson
Phil Golland	Don Sinkinson
Darwin Gowing	Kate Song
Richard Gregoire	Bob Stevens
Terry Halton	Nalini Warriar
Roger Hawkins	Allan Woodward
Judy Janzen (EC)	Michael Zuwerkalow (BoD)
Ron Janzen	
Chris Knowles (EC)	