



EBANTER Issue 08-01

Well, 2007 is over and we at the OLBA are off to a head start on this pivotal year. I call it a pivotal year because Shirley Lennarduzzi, our past president did such an incredible job as President. Her shoes are going to be tough to fill. Fortunately for our association Bob Machan is our new president. Bob has been bowling for nearly 50 years and has been heavily involved in the administration of his home club in Sarnia.

Bob also did an incredible job revamping and organizing the rules, policies and procedures for operating the Ontario Championships. He is a member of the Board as an Ontario Representative for Bowls Canada where he has ably represented our interests. To be honest if I was to write about all of Bob's accomplishments there would be no room for any other news.

2007 Recap

In 2007 the OLBA took the initiative at the Bowls Canada meeting last January to work with our other Provincial Associations to improve the way we all conduct the business of Lawn Bowling. We especially targeted the way the national championships were doled out and funded. Due to the size and number of clubs, British Columbia and Ontario will be taking a larger role in hosting the National Events. Ontario has also committed to match BCB's club host funding for all events held in Ontario. In effect, this means that an Ontario club that hosts a major efficiently will make a sizable profit that they can use however that club wishes to.

With the direct support of Ralph Ellis we were able to increase the numbers of club players in Ontario entering the Provincial Championships. Ralph's sponsorship of \$1000.00 will be repeated again this year.

2008

At our last meeting, one item was brought forward that deals with the rule changes instituted by World Bowls and applied across the board by BCB and the OLBA. The rule that caused the most consternation to the bulk of our membership was who would throw the jack after the first end is completed. The OLBA after quite a bit of individual consultation has decided that the rule change was not good for our game. Our bottom line is that the team winning the end has an unfair advantage if they have control of the next end. With that in mind the Board has changed the rule. The team or player winning the end will set the mat and throw the jack.

The board of Directors have made the decision to proceed with a new advertising program to aid the member clubs with advertising costs. We will be trying to recoup our investment by applying for a government grant.

In addition to the above the Board is continuing to an on going reinforcement of the Go Lawn Bowl Program and to reinforce Bowls Buddy program and retention

Despite the hard work of Robert Goldin we have had to cancel the Super Club League. The feedback from the membership was that it did not have the support of enough clubs to be viable.

James McLellan has organized a new premier league operating out of the Thames Valley area. I am very pleased to report that interested members of District 13 held a meeting on January 12th at the Newmarket LBC. They have decided to pursue the idea of starting a similar league for their district and possibly expanding it to include interested neighbouring clubs.

Prime Time Insurance - I am very pleased to announce our newest corporate sponsor. This company is going to give our membership group insurance rates. I have checked the pricing and believe that you should be able to save a significant amount of money on your home and auto insurance. I understand that later in the year they will be expanding into travel insurance. See the attached email that introduces our new sponsor to the membership.

OLBA has secured Coaching DVD's from BCB which will be available for purchase.

Coaching clinics --- is there any interest in holding clinics; if so contact either Shirley Lennarduzzi or Gina Bellamy.

I am looking for club and District information to try and expand our news base. If there is a good story or pictures out there then please send them to me and I will try and get it into upcoming issues....Chris

As you can see you have a new EBANTER editor, writer et al. As time goes by and I learn a lot more about desktop publishing you should expect an improvement in the quality of this newsletter. Please feel free to send me comments and polite suggestions on how to improve this newsletter.

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