



Message to all OLBA Members:



The OLBA Spring Meeting will be held in Woodstock on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Registration will begin at 8:30, although we would like you to pre-register online by going to the OLBA website. **Since the hotel provides restaurant facilities, we have been asked NOT to bring brown bag lunches this year.** There are also a number of “fast food” restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

Membership Invoices will be sent to the club treasurer by email in the near future.

We will be presenting our **Second Annual Trade Show**, organized by one of the OLBA Directors, **Jack Fine**. You will be given the opportunity to browse at a number of display tables, talk to the suppliers, and get useful information. You may wish to make purchases for yourself or for your club. Many of these companies have placed ads in the 2010 Annual.

The OLBA Annual editor, **Jan Bauer**, will be distributing the **2010 Annuals** to club representatives. Jan has worked hard again this year to ensure a high-quality book for our lawn bowlers to enjoy. Look for some interesting new changes this year!

Deb Hare, Director for Sales and Distribution will have a display of items for sale, including the popular “Go Lawn Bowl” licence plate holders. She will also have New Bowler Kits prepared for clubs with new bowlers registered.

The Database Administrator, **Elaine Stevenson** will be present to handle payments of club membership fees as well as membership cards and stickers. Elaine was able to arrange bus transportation for members who would rather not drive to the OLBA meeting. **Please contact Kerr Travel directly Toll Free 1-888-847-5377 before April 8 if you are interested in this option.** Lawn bowlers across Ontario appreciate Elaine’s dedication in communicating with members re. their concerns.

Weston Nesbitt, the OLBA webmaster, has been striving to continuously update the website. A new feature, the **Consolidated Provincial List of Tournaments**, has been added. Bowlers can find tournaments by dates rather than by districts. **For promotional materials, clubs can download many of the Go Lawn Bowl resources from the website.** Go to the Home Page and click on the logo at the right for information and pamphlets for your club’s Open House events, etc. Have you used the website to “Find a Club” or read the “Club Newsletters”? You can submit your own club’s newsletters to web@olba.ca to share ideas with other clubs.

A meeting of all District Reps will be held to distribute information pertaining to the **2010 District and Ontario Championships**. The Championship Chair, **Karen Peart** and her committee have worked hard to get ready for this year’s exciting events. If your club is interested in hosting a **Provincial Championship in 2011**, please submit an application to Karen. Hosting information is available on the website. One of the members of the Championship Committee, **John Barker**, has completed a revised **Drawmaster’s Handbook**. You will learn details about this new document and how you can obtain copies for your club.

Ryan Stadnyk, Championship Awards Director, will share some exciting new information pertaining to the winning Ontario teams for 2010.

Andy Caldwell, the OLBA Director for Junior programs, will tell you about some of the exciting opportunities available to our younger bowlers. Andy will also present the Earl Mayer Bowler of the Year (BOTY) Awards to the deserving winners!

Please come and meet the OLBA Achievement Awards Director, Rosemary Stadnyk. She has already been busy with requests for certificates, pins, and plaques. Rosemary will be making special presentations during the meeting. The OLBA would like to thank Brenda and Dan Milligan of MVP Sports for their generous contributions to the OLBA Membership Drive and Bowls Buddy Awards programs.

As the OLBA Past President, Bob will have the honour of making a special presentation to the winner of the Bill Boettger Volunteer of the Year (VOTY) Award.

Please consider nominating someone from your club to receive the VOTY Award next year. The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the sport of bowls. Nominations are due by Nov. 30 to the Past President (Arja Nesbitt). The application form is available on the website.

I'm sure that you will have read many issues of the OLBA newsletter, the E-Banter. Copies of these excellent publications can be downloaded from the website for club members to enjoy reading. Bob Machan spends countless hours preparing the articles to share current information about lawn bowling with our membership.

The Chief Umpire for Ontario, Bob O'Neil, will chair a meeting with the Officiating Committee. On behalf of all OLBA members, I would like to congratulate Bob on being selected to receive the Syl Apps Award, recognizing his contributions to the sport of bowls. The award will be presented at Ontario Place on April 15.

Please come and meet the rest of the Board members: Herb Nesbitt, Dave Ball, Alan Dean (Vice President/Funding Grants Applications), Elaine Houtby (Vice President/Safety and Risk Management), Mike Landry, John Barker, and Wayne Daley (Greens Committee)... all of whom have worked hard in many capacities. If your club would like to apply for a funding grant, please contact Alan Dean at dean@olba.ca. The first date for applications for Trillium grants was March 1. The next dates are July 1 and November 1. Read E-Banter #3 for more information.

I would like to thank Paul White and Lloyd Woods for their continuing efforts to answer questions related to greens maintenance. I would also like to thank Bob Reid and David Llewellyn for their interest in promoting indoor lawn bowling facilities in Ontario. David has agreed to replace Jim Stewart (who resigned last year) as the OLBA short mat representative. He will be looking for your support in getting information to prospective bowlers. A big "thank you" to Georgina Bellamy and Shirley Lenarduzzi for their help in getting important information to our bowlers.

At the Spring Meeting, we will present the results of the Survey which many clubs completed in the Fall. We will also have a "Suggestion Box" for you to present your own comments/ideas/opinions about lawn bowling in Ontario.

There will be a vote by the members present at the Spring Meeting. Please see the attachment sent with this e-mail re. changes in the OLBA Bylaws.

Next year, Ontario will be the proud host of the Canadian Majors Championships for 2011. Thank you Willowdale and Agincourt! I'm sure lawn bowlers all over Ontario will be supportive of these two clubs as they embark on a very busy schedule in the year ahead. Watch for updates on the website.

According to the BCB rotational schedule, Ontario will host the Canadian Mixed Pairs Championships in 2012. Please send applications to host this event to the OLBA President (Arja Nesbitt) by September 30, 2010. The application form is available on the OLBA website.

Please continue to support the OLBA Sponsors: The Brick, Primetime Insurance, and our new sponsor, VOLO, which was introduced to you at the OLBA Fall Meeting. For deals on hotels, flights, cruises, rental cars, etc., use your membership number to register for VOLO on the OLBA website. The winner of the VOLO contest will be announced at the Spring Meeting. As we learn to support our sponsors in greater numbers, the lawn bowling community will also benefit from their support.

We hope to have at least one or two members from every club at the meeting. Please pre-register on the website at www.olba.ca. In the next few weeks, you will be able to access the Minutes of the Fall Meeting, the 2009 Financial Statements, and the Agenda for the Spring Meeting. (Click on OLBA Spring Meeting.)

Many thanks to the OLBA Secretary, Edith Pedden, and to Rich and Karen Peart, for the preparation and organization related to this year's OLBA Spring Meeting (hotel accommodations, registration, refreshments, sound equipment, etc.).

The OLBA Fall Meeting will be held in Oshawa on Saturday, October 23. We are attempting to move the meetings to different locations but still keep them relatively central. Since the renovations were completed at Brampton Century Gardens, it has become too expensive to hold the meetings there. With the large membership in Districts 13 and 14, it makes sense to hold some meetings in areas east of Toronto.

Looking forward to seeing you in Woodstock on Saturday, April 24!

Arja Nesbitt, OLBA President