



The Jesters Club of Canada

Minutes

Annual General Meeting of the Jesters Club of Canada

Tuesday April 30, 2024, 7 pm EDT

Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Jesters Members Present:

Hugh Woolley, Mike Letourneau, David Hotham, Eric Watson, Richard Pound, Andrew Lynn, Jay Nash, Kim Watson, Karen Levine, Peter Reimer, Bob Ferguson, John Hungerford, Blair Finlayson, Rob Warden, Cathy Brown, Cathy Tuckwell, Jeff Deverill, Tom Nederpel, Carolyn Roper, Josh Ginou, Hussein Salemwalla, Sean Arani, Vinit Kudva, Peter Frost, Ed Bracht, Jillian Anderson, Keith Flavell

Members Present by Proxy:

John Zaplatynsky, Robert Dubeau, David Ross, Cliff Sparkes, Robert Birrell, Fred Plant, John Wang, Eyal Baruch, Alan Hunt, William Shishakly, Marc Lalonde, Allan Brown

1. Call to order

Keith Flavell, Chair of the meeting, calls the AGM to order at 7:03pm.

2. Confirm a Quorum of ten members in person and by proxy

Keith confirms quorum is achieved.

3. Minutes of meeting held on June 4, 2023

Keith presented the minutes of the June 4, 2023 AGM. Subject to a minor spelling correction,

Motion to accept proposed by: Vinit Kudva

Seconded by: Richard Pound

Accepted unanimously

4. Chairman's Annual Report

Keith Flavell reviews the 2023 annual report.

- He noted that regional reports had not been collected yet, but would be circulated as soon as received
- The committee established to explore means of reducing the costs of hosting future Jesters tours, chaired by Kim Watson, had met during the year and presented proposals to the National Committee. Among them was a proposal for a 1-year dues holiday for the regions to allow them to replenish finances after

the 2022 tour. It was noted that this was not meant to set a precedent for future years when tours visited.

- Significant events, as always, were the Jesters Tour to South Africa in September 2023, as well as the just-completed Lapham Grant matches in Vancouver. More on these events to follow.

5. Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2023 (Hugh Woolley)

- Hugh Woolley, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements. He noted that cash in the bank was unusually high at over \$70,000. Among other reasons, this was due to the 75th Jesters Jubilee and the 100th Lapham Grant not only returning the full amount of \$50,000 committed to them, but even returning an additional \$3,000 in profit.
- Of the \$10,000 showing as a commitment to Atlantic Canada, \$5,000 had been paid in early 2024 so only \$5,000 remained on the books.
- He also confirmed that the regional dues holiday was shown in the 2023 financial statements.
- Ed Bracht asked if the cash could be invested in some form of securities in order to generate some income; Hugh responded that because the Jesters Club was unincorporated, the bank was very reluctant to allow any new investment transactions.
- A discussion ensued as to whether the Club should actively look at incorporating, given that financial institutions were increasingly strict about the ownership of accounts, and the advantages and disadvantages of doing so.
- A motion was brought forward to form a committee to consider and recommend whether the Club should incorporate or if any other steps should be taken in this regard.

Motion to form a committee to consider incorporation: Cathy Tuckwell

Seconded: Carolyn Roper

Motion unanimously approved

6. Jesters / Squash Canada Proposal

- Keith outlined a proposal that had been brought forward by Squash Canada for the Jesters and Squash Canada to work together on a coordinated program to encourage and grow post-secondary squash participation. Using Jesters financial support and existing Squash Canada infrastructure, and coordinated by a dedicated Squash Canada resource, the idea was to encourage wider participation, both individually and through university or other post-secondary schools, in national, regional and local squash events. The initial proposal provided for a 3-year commitment of the National Jesters of \$10,000 per year, and of each regional Jesters committee of \$2,000 per year.
- He noted that a committee of Jesters, representing all regions, would be set up to work with Jamie Nicholl's team at Squash Canada to develop more specific recommendations and make sure the program smoothly integrated with the ongoing programs and the financial needs and capacity of each region.

- Keith opened the discussion for questions. Numerous valuable questions and comments were received and discussed. Among other comments, it was emphasized that the program needed to be designed in each region so that it did not duplicate existing events and to recognize that different regions would have different existing situations and financial resources, that an important emphasis should be on reaching out to players at the grass roots level (ie. beyond schools or programs that already had organized squash activities), and the importance of ongoing communication.
- Keith thanked all participants for their valuable input. Kim Watson noted that she would also take this feedback directly to Squash Canada, where she served on the Board of Directors.

7. Lapham – Grant matches

- The 2024 Lapham Grant matches were just played in Vancouver. On behalf of the Jesters, Keith thanked Cathy Brown, Chair of the event, and her entire team for the tremendously successful event.
- The 2025 Lapham Grant will be held in Boston, MA, in April 2025. Keith noted that Rob Birrell had accepted to be the Lapham Grant captain, and that a decision on the Crawford and Lawrence Wilkins captains should be expected shortly.

8. Jesters Tours

2023 Tour of South Africa

- Kim Watson (captain of the Canadian touring team) provided a report on the September 2023 tour of South Africa. She described an extraordinary tour, noting that in addition to squash the team had played considerable amounts of padel and squash doubles (on the singles court). Kim advised that a written report/photo album was in the works.

In-Bound 2024 Tour of the English Jesters

- The UK Jesters would be visiting Canada in the fall of 2024. A team of 7 players was expected, and under the national coordination of Phil Quintal the team would be touring the country from west to east.

9. Election of Executive Committee members

- Keith presented the rota of proposed Executive Committee members had been circulated for approval.

Motion to approve: Peter Reimer

Seconded: Carolyn Roper

Unanimously approved.

- Keith noted that there were currently two vacancies on the Executive Committee. If filled, they would serve on an interim basis until approved at the next AGM.

(Note: subsequent to the AGM, Cathy Tuckwell (Ontario) and Lester Jinks (Atlantic) joined the Executive Committee)

10. Other Business

- Ed Bracht noted that in 2027 the TCSCC would be celebrating its 200th anniversary, and that the Jesters (individually or collectively) might consider organizing an event to commemorate this anniversary. Karen Levine added that the BC Jesters' summer event was being held from July 12-14, and there was an open invitation to anyone to join in the festivities.

There being no further business, at 8:14pm
Meeting Adjourned.