

British Columbia Disc Sports Society

PO Box #29114
RPO South Granville
Vancouver, BC
V6J 5C2

Annual General Meeting (Minutes)

Date: September 15th, 2012

Start Time: 6:30pm

Location: Myrtle Philip Community School, Whistler

In Attendance (36 Members):

Bill Anderson, Brendan Armstrong, Chad Harris, Craig M^cConnell, Craig Sheather, Dan Callcott, Dan Laitsch, Darin Mickelson, Dave Ross, David Cowley, Ed Fogarty, Iain Warren, Jason Palmeter, Jay Peters, Jesse Thompson, John Gohls-Thorpe, Jordan Fafard, Josh Piché, Karin Abel, Kathryn Slack, Lada Rezek, Leucio Giannini, Matt Llewellyn, Matt MacDonald, Mike M^cGregor, Neville Collett, Paul Robbins, Selena Tank, Shawn Luco, Sheldon Whitford, Steve Fox, Steve Mawdsley, Theresa Yu, Ty Kuhn, Vito Michelangelo, Wes McIntosh

By Proxy (0 Members): No proxies present.

Late: Jamie Sorensen, John Lock

6:00 – 6:30 pm Credential check, proxies, sign in

1. **Call to order (6:30pm)**, by Dan Laitsch, President, BCDSS.
2. **Affirmation of a quorum:** 36 members in good standing, 0 members by proxy.
3. Dan Laitsch requests that the **AGM Agenda** be approved. *Unanimous*
4. Dan Laitsch requests a **motion to approve minutes from AGM January 18, 2012.**

Chad Harris moves that the minutes from the previous AGM be accepted. Craig M^cConnell Seconds; carried.

5. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

5.1. President's Report presented by Dan Laitsch, President, BCDSS

This year's Board came together in a spirit of collegiality to help move the organization forward given the desire of the leadership of the Ultimate Branch to establish its own independent organization. This Board was charged with seeing the culmination of a sometimes contentious process that began more than three years ago. After 8 months of hard work, we are pleased to bring together the association's membership to present the results of that process as we work to advance Disc Sports across the province.

Challenges

This year's board was faced with a variety of challenges. Last year's board had almost entirely resigned before the AGM and left the organization without an approved budget or any official strategic direction. As new officers we began the year with a fractured membership, substantial deficits within the Ultimate Branch budget, and a shifting membership.

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Successes

Despite these challenges, the board came together in a spirit of collegiality and integrity to address the problems of the past three years. In particular I want to highlight my appreciation of the work of Treasurer Farouk Zaba, who's stated and demonstrated intent throughout the year was to the BCDSS as an organization, and to exercise his fiduciary duties as treasurer to the organization as defined by its constitution and bylaws. I also want to thank Kathryn Slack, Vice President of the BCDSS and Chair of the UB (as well as President of the new BCU) for her commitment to completing the separation with no negative budgetary impact to the BCDSS. Under her stewardship, the UB returned the \$9,000 deficit to the main board and left the organization with a \$5,000 surplus. Her good will has helped ensure the BCDSS starts its new life without an Ultimate Branch with a healthy financial base.

I also want to thank the officers of the DGB, who have continued to operate on sound fiscal principals of revenue neutral programming. As a result of their conservative approach to programming over the past three years, the future of disc golf in this province is exceptionally bright, with new world class courses under development, a solid tournament schedule, and, as they will detail shortly, future programmatic and funding opportunities unique in the history of this province.

The Future

Despite the substantial success of the board in finally resolving the transition of the UB to its own independent organization, BC Ultimate, we face substantial challenges that beg a continued conservative approach to programming over the coming year. With the departure of the UB, we face a 90% membership drop and a new revenue model that provides at best only 2/3 of the annual operating costs through our membership dues. The next Board will be faced with the challenge of continuing to provide services while operating under a substantially reduced annual budget.

The current reserves of the organization, as well as the receipt of a large provincial grant, will mitigate these challenges. That said, it is critically important that we continue the practice of providing core services on a revenue neutral basis, and that we carefully protect our strategic reserves. There will be substantial opportunity for expanded programming using grant funds, but it is quite likely that we will need to redesign our membership if we hope to build a strong fiscal model for the future.

Later in the meeting you will be asked to vote on a resolution that will allow the next board to increase dues in the future if they deem it necessary to continue the work of the organization. I urge you to adopt this resolution so that your elected officers can be empowered to ensure the fiscal integrity of the organization.

Finally, the departure of the UB narrows the focus of the BCDSS and results in Disc Golf being the largest sport base in the organization. I am a Disc Golfer, but I am also an Ultimate player, Freestyler, and casual player of Double Disc Court, GUTS, and Goaltimate. As such, I urge the new board, and the entire membership, to remember that we are a multi-sport organization,

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and that our mandate is to improve the profile of all Disc Sports in the province. Despite the challenges of the past, we gain nothing for Disc Sports if we don't maintain close and collegial relations with BCU. The two organizations, and the VUL, need to continue to work together to advance Disc Sports in the province.

5.2. **Disc Golf Branch** presented by Neville Collett on behalf of Leanne Fulton, Chair, Disc Golf Branch

Soon after the 2011 AGM, we were able to recruit officers and liaisons from across the Southern part of the province. Thanks to John Anthony on the Island, Chad Smoliak in Kamloops, Craig M^cConnell in Whistler, as well as Craig Sheather, Ed, Jesse, Neville, JP and Dan.

We held four meetings to discuss issues and plan events.

One of the most pressing decisions of the 2011-12 season, in the wake of the departure of the Ultimate Branch from the BCDSS, was how to define ourselves as a group. We chose to continue to define ourselves as a multi-sport organization, versus changing to becoming a single-sport-focused organization. The decision was made to allow for greater flexibility and to retain the potential to draw in more members from other sports. Simply, having more members will decrease the cost of insurance to each individual.

During the 2011-12 season,

- we served approximately 250 members, thanks to Ed Fogarty for maintaining our membership list for the season.
- 8 Duck golf tournaments were successfully run and organized. Thanks to Jesse Thompson for all his work organizing the dates and locations and liaising with the tournament directors. Thanks to the tournament directors for all their hard work as well.
- We also provided funding to the UltraGlide, BC Open and Provincials, and maintained the bcdiscgolf.com website and discussion forum.
- Amateur prize packages, comprised of discs for all of the Duck events were chosen, shipped and separated into individual packages – this was organized by Neville. Thanks for all your help, Nev!
- Trophies were organized for the end-of-season duck golf event in Logan Lake – thanks for Kevin Burgham for his engraving expertise.

We fielded numerous inquiries about course development throughout the province, and attended an open house at Aldergrove Lake in Abbotsford to demonstrate the sport to local park planners, officials and community members. Interest is high with the parks departments around the lower mainland.

We liaised with the City of Vancouver Parks department at length to sort out the aftermath of Abbie's Open. We paid approximately \$550 in fines for the mishaps that happened leading up to and the day of the event. Thanks to Dan for meeting with the City and working at patching up a potentially damaged relationship.

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A gaming grant was written and submitted; thanks to Craig Sheather and Dan Laitsch for all their work on this. Our bid will potentially result in significant changes in the upcoming seasons; Craig will elaborate. Thanks to Craig as well for all his work as treasurer.

Going forward, one of our most pressing goals in the coming season will be to draw in more members. Outreach will be of utmost importance to achieve this, and we'll need to put in place some creative processes for growing our membership. It's an exciting time for our sport, and the future is particularly bright here in BC.

5.3. Ultimate Branch presented by Kathryn Slack, Chair, Ultimate Branch

Report to be added.

5.4. Financial Report presented by Dan Laitsch on behalf of Farouk Zaba, Treasurer, BCDSS

The Financial Statements are contained in a separate document, please refer to it for complete information.

5.4.1. Gaming Grant details presented by Craig Sheather, in response to questions from the floor

Specific details which were shared include:

- Gaming Grant was applied for during a period of relaxed requirements (after the grants had been restored by the relevant governmental ministry)
- The amount of the grant received this year, that will be used by the board to run specific programs is approximately \$24,000
- We should not plan in future years on receiving a grant, given that the BC Government just announced an anticipated \$1 Billion dollar deficit
- The applied for programs (as per the grant application) target membership growth through Club Development

A motion was made to accept the Financial Report as presented by David Cowley; Seconded: Craig Sheather; carried.

5.5. Reports of Special Committees presented by Dan Laitsch, President, BCDSS

Dan provided an overview of the recommendations from the BCDSS Organizational Scan. For complete details please refer to the official recommendations document generated by the committee.

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5.6. Other Reports: Website presented by David Cowley, Secretary, BCDSS

Due to the formation of BC Ultimate and the cessation of branches within the BCDSS a number of changes will be necessary to our websites. Additionally, both the BCDSS and the BCU are transitioning to new web hosts, as a means of streamlining operations and reducing costs. Hopefully these changes will not be disruptive to the membership overall, but there may be short outages of the website while these changes take place. Every effort will be made to minimize these, and to communicate when they are most likely to take place. It is anticipated that these changes will be complete in the calendar year 2012, although hopefully much sooner.

6. New Business

6.1. Resolution on Membership Dues presented by Dan Laitsch, President, BCDSS

Background:

The departure of the Ultimate players from the BCDSS means that our membership numbers will drop from approximately 5,000 to 400, and the associated dues revenue will drop to around \$2,000 per year. Insurance alone currently runs \$2,500, so that even under a significantly reduced budget, membership revenue is unlikely to cover core expenses without a substantial increase in the membership numbers.

While current organizational reserves can cover expenses for the 2012/13 membership year, the Board may wish to look at increasing the dues in future years to ensure that core services can continue to be offered on a revenue neutral model (one of the reasons the UB experienced financial hardship over the past four years was a reliance on grant money for core services).

The organization's dues can only be changed at the annual meeting by a majority vote of the membership. This creates a challenge, as most membership dues for the membership year are collected prior to the AGM. As such, the simplest way to increase dues is to authorize the increase for the following membership year.

As a result, I am bringing forth the following resolution that would authorize the newly elected board to increase dues for the 2012/13 membership year by up to \$10, not to exceed \$15. This does not necessarily mean dues will increase, only that the board can set the dues for the 2012/13 membership year at anywhere between \$5 and \$15 dollars per year.

Resolution:

Whereas the separation of the Ultimate players from the BCDSS has caused a significant reduction in the membership base, and whereas annual expenditures of the organization may exceed the revenue generated by current member dues,

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Therefore be it resolved that the BCDSS membership authorizes the 2012/13 elected Board to increase the membership dues by up to \$10 (not to exceed an annual membership amount of \$15) for the 2013/14 membership year if the Board feels that such an increase is in the best interests of the membership of the organization.

- Chad Harris proposed that the resolution be amended to limit the increase to a maximum of \$5, allowing the board to adjust dues anywhere between \$5 and \$10. The motion was put to a vote, with 5 votes in favour, 31 opposed; defeated.
- The original resolution was then voted on (unamended), it was passed unanimously.

7. Election of New Officers

Prior to the election of officers it was proposed that the number of Members at Large be limited to 2 during the elections (with the board retaining the discretion to appoint additional Members at Large in the future should they deem it necessary). *Moved by David Cowley; Seconded by Craig M^cConnell; carried.*

Given the departure of the Ultimate Branch, it was proposed that only main board elections take place, with no branches being formed at this time. *No objections were raised.*

Elections were by written secret ballot, nominations were taken for each position. Votes were counted by David Cowley and Karin Abel.

7.1. **President:** Craig Sheather, Josh Piché, Leanne Fulton; **Craig Sheather** elected.

7.2. **Vice President:** Neville Collett, Kathryn Slack; **Neville Collett** elected.

7.3. **Secretary:** Craig M^cConnell; **Craig M^cConnell** elected.

7.4. **Treasurer:** Shawn Luco; **Shawn Luco** elected.

7.5. **Event Coordinator:** Jesse Thompson; **Jesse Thompson** elected.

7.6. **Membership:** Ed Fogarty; **Ed Fogarty** elected.

7.7. **Outreach:** Dan Laitsch; **Dan Laitsch** elected.

7.8. **Members at Large:** Chad Harris, Wes McIntosh, Kathryn Slack; **Chad Harris** and **Wes McIntosh** elected.

8. **Meeting Adjourned** David Cowley moves; Dan Laitsch seconds; carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm.