

**DUPLICATE LITE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**

The Annual General Meeting for Duplicate Lite was held following the regular Bridge game at Elgin Hall on Thursday, September 1, 2016. There were 22 players in attendance.

John Demeulemeester chaired the meeting.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

John gave a "state of the club" address. He indicated that Duplicate Lite has had another good year and continues to be a very successful club. Overall attendance has grown significantly since the Club's beginning and that numbers were strong again this past year..

A. Review of the goals of Duplicate Lite

In his report, John highlighted that when he and Jane started Duplicate Lite in April 2011, they had three main goals:

1. To create a friendly non profit club to play, to learn and to improve. This has been achieved with John and Jane's leadership and with the positive efforts and support by club players. The Club is committed to continuing this focus in the years ahead.

2. To have a place where new players could start Bridge and have an opportunity to play in an encouraging and supportive environment.

When the Club first started out, many of the players were relatively new. The progress and improvement in the playing ability of the members over the past several years has been significant; numerous players are playing as well at other clubs and tournaments and acting as mentors to newer players. However, with the growth of our Thursday Club, we could not continue to provide opportunities for less experienced players to play in a separate section.

Thus, a new and independent "sister" club was started on Wednesday's to accommodate beginners and to offer more lessons. Duplicate Lite was pleased to support this initiative financially with a \$3,000.00 grant to the Wednesday Club. This new organization is now establishing itself as a strong Club in its own right!

3. To work towards the establishment of a bridge centre and permanent location in the Peninsula/Surrey area.

Jane Youngberg will provide an overview related to this goal at a later point in this AGM meeting. It should be noted that a positive relationship has been developed with the City of Surrey and we want to continue to build on this partnership.

B. Role of the Society for Duplicate Lite

John explained the background in starting the Society when Duplicate Lite moved to Elgin Hall. The Society has three main purposes:

1. Allows the Club to receive a lower rent rate from the City of Surrey
2. Provides financial oversight of the financial operations of the Club
3. Provides a formal opportunity to get feedback and input from players

John briefly outlined the governance model for the Club. He and Jane, as the co-founders of the Club, continue to set the overall direction for the Club and make the day to day decisions. However, strong input and advice is provided by the Board and Club players and changes are made based on feedback and suggestions.

FINANCIALS

A Financial Report was distributed to attendees and reviewed at the meeting. The Statement gave the financials for the entire 2015 year and as well, for the January-June 2016 period.

In the Financial Report, funds have been allocated for a Contingency Fund for learning initiatives and for the promotion and future establishment of a Bridge centre/permanent location.

The Club owns bridgemates, duplicating machine, computer, printer, audio and video equipment, boards, tables, coffee makers and other bridge related items. It has liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance in place.

The Club has no current or long-term liabilities.

It was noted that for the first six month segment for 2016, the total revenue brought in by the Club just covered the operating expenses. This situation will be monitored closely. However, costs are usually higher in the first half of the year due to expenditures such as supplies and insurance. Other expenditures such as having two game Directors and providing many “free plays” for volunteer service may have to be looked at in the future.

Sincere thanks to Bob Dillon for his work with the bookkeeping and finances!

ELECTION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS

Ed Youngberg handled this item on the Agenda. He explained that our Society for Duplicate Lite usually has a maximum of five (5) Directors who serve for two year terms.

Jane Youngberg remains on as a current Director to finish her second year. This year, there are up to four (4) Director vacancies to be filled: John Demeulemeester and Ed Youngberg have now completed their second year and we also had two vacancies occur due to resignations.

Elected as Board Directors for two year terms beginning September, 2016:
John Demeulemeester, Ray Clemmons, Shirley Laidlaw, and Gordon Scott.

Congratulations to the new Directors and thanks to Ed Youngberg for his service as a Director. Ed performs many tasks behind the scenes including major editing of our well read newsletter!

Harrison Hot Springs Land Cruise 4 – October 3 -5, 2016

There has been an excellent response to this fun Bridge retreat featuring Barb Seagram. However, due to some cancellations, there are some spots available. Please check with the organizers, Carroll Guichon, Diana Juluisson, Angela Lay and Lynda Bowie if you would like to attend.

Mentoring Program

There was a discussion around the possible offering of a Mentoring Program at Duplicate Lite.

Suggestions were given as to what format might work more effectively. Rather than the usual mentor/mentee one game experience, there was support for the concept of one experienced player guiding a small group or several pairs of players.

John is encouraging Club members to consider taking on the responsibility of organizing such an activity.

This topic will be revisited in the near future.

Renovations

Jane Y provided the latest information on the City of Surrey's proposed renovations for Elgin Hall and the paving of the parking lot. Presently, the renovation plans have been put on hold and the Club will be notified when new dates have been established by the City.

It is expected that Duplicate Lite will have to vacate Elgin Hall during such renovations and find other accommodation until the work has been completed. Turnball Hall at the South Surrey Rec Centre is NOT available after January. Suggestions were given as to possible temporary locations for our Club during the renovations.

Bridge Centre/Permanent Bridge Site

Jane Y highlighted the long term goal and vision of Duplicate Lite to work toward the establishment of a Bridge centre and Permanent Bridge site.

As a result of a determined and persistent effort by a small group of Club members over the past several years, a strong and positive working relationship has been developed with the City of Surrey and with the Recreation Department. This has enabled our Bridge community to secure our current booking commitments for Bridge at Elgin Hall (and the Tuesday Club).

It is hoped that our Club will be able to expand our booking times at Elgin Hall. And in the future, we might be able to have in Surrey, a Bridge Centre, perhaps in partnership with the City.

Jane challenged members to consider getting involved in such initiatives as a Youth and Family Bridge program. As well, the concept of working toward a Bridge Centre could be the major task taken on by the Society.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm

Ed Youngberg, Recorder