

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CENTRE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
October 25, 2022

Management Committee members in attendance:

Muriel Tremblay-Chair, Claude Tremblay, Lorraine Horton, Heather Beckman, Bob McGrath, Donna Williams, Joan Soifert, John Marskell

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1610 hours.

She noted that we have a quorum for the meeting. She welcomed those members present and thanked them for supporting the Club.

Muriel Introduced the Committee members and thanked them for their contributions to the Club.

Review of Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minutes were reviewed and approved as circulated.

Moved by Lorraine and seconded by Bill Bowslaugh.

Message from the Chair

Welcome everyone to our Annual General Meeting. This is our ten year celebration and we are so happy that we can meet in person. I would like to recognize and thank the members of our Management Committee who supported our club over this past year. Their dedication is very much appreciated. Even though we could not open our club until March, we had many meetings in preparation for re-opening and of course a couple of false starts when we thought things were getting better, but didn't:

**Bob McGrath** – Secretary – takes the minutes for our meetings and is always accurate and timely in sending them to us. Bob has been on the Management Committee for 2 three year terms

**Claude Tremblay** – Club Manager and Head Director – schedules our directors, provides training and backup support for all of our directors, communicates with ACBL and establishes a schedule for all of our special games. Claude keeps all of us informed about things that are planned for our members and likes to remind all of us to make our lead before recording the contract.

**Dena Jones** - Website Master – supported us in maintaining our website and transferring her responsibilities to Bob Gidden, our new Web Master and she continues to support us in training our newest web master.

**Bob Gidden** – accepted the role of Web Master in February of this year and was really getting comfortable in his new role just before he learned about his cancer. He resigned just weeks before he passed. We will miss Bob at our meetings and our games.

**Heather Beckman** – Newsletter and promotion. Heather is our liaison with The Local newspaper. She was instrumental in getting an article written about us to support our promotion of our Education Program.

**Lorraine Horton** – Membership Chair is responsible for maintaining information on the website for our new and renewed members. She communicates with our new members to let welcome them and inform them of the information on the website set up for members only. Lorraine has also been on the Management Committee for 2 three years terms and has agreed to stay on for at least one more year.

**Muriel Tremblay** – I am your Chair and Treasurer

**Chandi** has been extremely successful in recruiting students and teaching beginner bridge lessons. He had 29 students this fall and through his energy and encouragement, most of his students have become members of our club and are playing in a novice game on Friday afternoons. This is the only way that we can develop new bridge players in our community. Thank you Chandi for all that you do for bridge and for our club.

I want to thank our directors: **Heather Beckman, Violi Whitmee, Chandi Jayawardena** and **Claude Tremblay**. Without them, we would not have any games and therefore, no club. They provide us with a great playing atmosphere and we know that their rulings will be fair. One more person that I want to recognize is **Verne Chant** for dealing all of boards each week and you have all had the benefit of his excellent wine and beer service today and at each of our special events. I want to thank **Jerry Smee**, who is not on our Management Committee, but is always there for us when we need to promote one of our special events or our Education opportunities to our members. I also want to thank **John Mackay** who does our financial review each year for us.

I would like to introduce you to the new members of our Management Committee: **Donna Williams** is our Social Chair and she is the person that we need to thanks for todays refreshments. Donna has a team of six members who have already planned our Christmas party for this year. It is going to be a wonderful celebration and tickets are on sale as of today. I recommend if you are planning to attend that you purchase your tickets early. Unfortunately due to our late start this year, we were not able to secure Auditorium C, where we have held the party in previous years. It will be in the Simpson room and there is a limit of 56 seats available.

**Joan Soifert** is our new web master. She accepted the role a month ago and with Dena's help Joan has been sending out messages from the Management Committee and posting on our website.

**John Marskell** is joining us as our Secretary, replacing Bob McGrath. We look forward to working with John over the next three years.

Returning to the Management Committee are: **Claude Tremblay, Heather Beckman, Lorraine Horton** and myself and we are very thankful that they did because otherwise we would not have the continuity that we currently enjoy.

I want to thank all of you for showing up for our 2022 AGM.

### **Financial Statement 2021/22**

Muriel reviewed the Financial Statement and noted that we are in a very good position having a bank balance of \$7288.77, and showing a profit of \$854.00. There being no questions from the floor Kathy Morrison moved that the Financial Statement for 2021/22 be accepted, seconded by Rod Sumner. Carried.

### **Budget**

Muriel reviewed the budget. Based on the shortened year in 2021 she doubled our needs for 2022. While we had educational activities there was no impact on the budget. We are maintaining game fees at \$5.00 and memberships at \$20.00. In response from a question from the floor she advised that current memberships are effective until our next renewal in September 23.

There being no further discussion Kathy Morison moved that the budget be accepted, seconded by Lucy McEwen. Carried

### **Club Manager Update**

Claude noted Muriel's contributions to the Club as Chair and Treasurer and thank her on behalf of the members.

Claude noted that we returned to face-to-face play on March 15. We have been averaging 6-7 tables on Tuesdays and 5-6 tables on Fridays. In the beginning it looked as if Friday games may not be sustainable but we agreed to monitor them over the summer and make a decision about continuing them in the fall. He was happy to report that they are sustainable.

He reported that we need more directors. He introduced the current directors, Chandi Jayawardena, Violi Whitmee, and Heather Beckman and thanked them for their service. Muriel and Claude continue to serve as back-ups.

Claude thanked Vern Chant for his contributions in making up the game boards which helps the directors on game days. He also thanked Verne for his contributions in managing the bar and serving on same.

Claude noted that he approached three individuals to boost the number of directors but none were available to assist. However, as of today Jeremy Smee agreed to direct – thank you Jeremy.

He reported that this year the Club ran 19 weeks of either Club Appreciation, Club Championship or Upgraded Club Championship as well as 5 weeks of Club Charity for our members without any extra fees. Several of these special games were free for the Club thanks to ACBL's support to encourage return to face-to-face play.

We will continue to try to recruit directors. We hope to increase our membership through students currently taking training.

### **Membership**

Lorraine noted that we had 144 members before covid. While her report shows that we currently have 87, that increased to 90 members as of today.

We hope to increase our membership because of the number of students now showing interest, as well as through other means.

Sadly, we had three members pass away this past year.

### **New Business**

New Management Committee – Muriel introduced the new Committee:  
Joan Soifert – Web Master; John Marskell – Secretary; Lorraine Horton-Membership; Heather Beckman – News Letter and Promotions; Claude Tremblay – Club Manager; Muriel Tremblay – Chair and Treasurer.

Our next membership renewal is in September of 2023.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1715 hours.  
Moved by Lorraine seconded by Heather. Carried.