

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Location: Queensway Center

1/2. Call to Order / Opening Remarks – President John McMurray

John called the meeting to order at 4:00pm, thanking everyone for the support he has received over his many years as President. He asked the meeting to extend that support to the new Executive, noting that this will bring more new ideas, quoting the new flights scoring system as example.

With around 140 members in attendance, John reported that the quorum requirement of 75 was met. Minutes of the Fall Meeting, held November 23, 2016, published on the notice boards and on the Golf section of the Maple Leaf web site, were taken as read.

John noted that next season will be short, due to the restoration project. This restoration will benefit us as golfers and all residents by maintaining the value of our homes. He mentioned the Golf Course Fund established from 50/50 revenues and dues, to be used for items not covered by the major contracts; an example being possible changes to the granite course markers. He highlighted the Spring Fling event coming up on Sunday, noting that the course will be full, and for us to have fun even if it takes a little longer than usual.

In closing, John expressed his and Brenda's thanks for the parting gift cards and flowers presented to them at the Dinner/Dance, and wished all a safe summer and healthy return next season.

3. Treasurer's Report – Gary Bonsteel

Gary opened by noting that membership of the Association has stabilized this year, standing now at 445. He reviewed details of the financial report handed out to the audience, highlighting the balance of our Golf Course Fund at \$8,522.00. Golf Association fees will be unchanged next season, and Gary plans to have our accounts audited in future.

Jerry Nieczyporowski proposed, Jim Iancale seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. A unanimous vote approved.

4. Secretary's Report – Chris Hemstead

Chris reported that the Executive sees a need to improve Communications with the membership, and believes that email is a good way to do that. He explained that it's not an easy thing to set up given the number of different groups involved (Pro Shop, Accounting office, GA and the three Leagues), so asked for a show of hands on three questions:- 1. Almost everyone indicated they would like to receive emails directly from the GA and the three Leagues. 2. Only one person (bravely?) indicated they would probably not read them, and 3. More than a dozen indicated they would use this opportunity to submit ideas to the Executive. This confirms the project is worthwhile.

Chris then introduced a motion to amend the Association By-Laws. The changes were posted on the notice boards, as required, and are designed to:

- Increase the number of Officers from four (4) to five (5), introducing the new position: Social Director.
- Assign primary responsibility for the running of Association Tournaments to the Vice President.
- Allow the Fall Meeting to be held on any date in November.
- Allow the Executive Board to initiate By-Laws amendments.

The motion was carried unanimously. Copies of the new By-Laws will be posted on the notice boards and the web site.

5. Ladies League – Sharon Hoover

Sharon reported that Ladies League now stands at 113 members, an increase over last year. She complimented and thanked her executive for a great year, and noted changes for next year. She spoke to the treasurer's report prepared by Mary Harris, and mentioned that the Ladies hope to add significantly to their funds by providing pizza at next year's Party-in-the-Park.

6. Men's League – Norm Wrigley

Norm reported that the Men's League membership is 149, a little up from past years, and had a great season with only one rain out. 130 of the 149 shared in the weekly prizes, which totalled over \$4,000.00.

Two coffee/donut mornings were held, as well as lunches in November, December & February; all went very well. The League donated to Rally for the Cure, and put money aside for flowers around the tees when the restoration is done.

Norm praised and thanked the 10 hard working members of his team, and wished all a great summer and speedy return November 1st.

7. Mixed League – Dick and Gayle Lemay

Dick opened with some statistics from this season. The League had 222 regular and 13 social members, down from last year's total of 251. An average 135 players came out each week, to share the \$72 of prizes. He and Gayle really "scrambled" to come up with interesting games.

Dick acknowledged the Pro Shop's excellent assistance, and Norm Bennett's work creating the weekly rosters. He described the four special events, highlighting the wine tasting when only nine out of 145 picked the wines correctly and 90% preferred the \$2.99 bottle. He mentioned the coffee and coaching session, with Abbe's famous donuts, and our Pro John giving putting tips.

Gayle thanked the many volunteers who make things run so well, especially the Bennets and Nelsons who are retiring after many years of service. They introduced Sharon and Leo Ayotte who will be taking over from the Lemays next year, and asked for volunteers to step forward to fill vacant assistant roster and coordinator roles.

8. Hole-in-One – Sheridan Yetman

Sheridan described the past successful season, with over 300 members signed up, and expressed his thanks to the 17 volunteer members of his committee. He reminded us that the final event is next Wednesday, highlighting the 50/50 and other draws taking place, and that next year's dates, usually second Wednesday of the month, will be published in Accents. He mentioned that you don't need a hole-in-one to become a member, that the annual fee is expected to again be \$20, and that members may bring out-of-town guests for a minimal fee of \$5.

Sheridan described the positive response to the upgraded snack tables, and the enjoyment provided by the re-enactment videos. He thanked David Warren on production, the Communication group, and the photographer for their tremendous work on these videos.

He again thanked all his volunteers, and wished safe travels to all.

9. Nominations – Chris Hemstead

Chris spoke on behalf of Len Turner, the chair of the Nominating Committee. The slate for next year's executive was posted as required in the By-Laws. No further nominations were received by the cut off date. By a unanimous vote the Officers for next season were elected as follows:

President:	Dick Keller
Vice-President:	Ron Keyes
Treasurer:	Gary Bonsteel
Secretary:	Chris Hemstead
Social Director:	Len Turner

10. Corporation – Jeff Stapledon

Jeff opened by noting the size of the audience, wishing there were as many at the Board and Homeowner meetings (Ed. he got his wish on Monday, April 3rd!). In his first year on the job he learned many new words, like nematodes and tiff eagle.

Jeff's main focus of the past year has been on increasing membership. Several initiatives were introduced to reverse the downward trend. The Ambassador Program, Open House days, Light Play memberships and Taste of Golf have combined to achieve that goal; our membership has actually grown. With added initiatives next season, he hopes to exceed 500 members. Jeff is relying on the members to promote this goal, seeking new members, and making everyone feel welcome. He hopes that deficit reductions will come from increases in membership rather than having to increase fees.

Jeff also mentioned other play improvement initiatives: emphasis on booking foursomes, elimination of phantom bookings, a trial of new tee time intervals, and a trial of starting on hole #1 rather than #9. Lastly, he emphasized the important achievement of approval of the badly needed rejuvenation project. Unfortunately this will reduce next season to 5 months, though we will be making every effort to arrange reciprocal play agreements for our members. He believes the course we return to in November 2018 will make the short term pain worthwhile, and asked us to remember we simply cannot make a rejuvenated omelette without breaking a few eggs.

Jeff asked for our members to show support for the ML Board's decisions on the Rejuvenation project by attending Monday's Homeowners meeting, as objections are anticipated to be raised there by others Homeowners. Link Hersey asked whether the growth in membership is reflected in the \$ deficit numbers. Jeff replied that a review of expenditures being undertaken by Ed McLachlan is near completion, and a commitment was made to provide the information requested (Ed. Jeff reported that Revenues for last year were on budget, Costs were \$60K under, leaving the annual loss just over \$200K).

Jeff now handed over to Chris Canning to present next year's pricing.

Chris opened by describing the four goals set for the new structure: fair for all residents, priority for residents vs. outsiders, customizable for individual needs, and growing of the membership. With this one-year solution, next season we will have 3 decisions to make: type of membership, how much golf to play, and need for a trail pass.

He discussed the first decision, the three levels of membership, in detail: Basic, Enhanced, and Unrestricted. Basic will be provided to every resident of the Park at no cost, recognizing our shared ownership of the facility; Unrestricted will be much like this year's "A" or "B" membership; Enhanced, will allow some benefits such as 5 day advance booking, but restricted play times. The second decision is made by choosing from a range of Play Packs: 15, 35, 55, 75 or 95 rounds are available, at differing rates per round. Last is the decision on use of a Trail Pass. A Golf Course Fees sheet showing the pricing for all the options was handed out to the audience.

Chris then went on to provide more details of the program, and provided answers to 10 hypothetical questions. All members will prepay, reducing lineups at the Pro Shop. 9 hole play will be provided

for, at 67% of 18 hole play, as it is currently. Additional rounds can be purchased at the Play Pack rate. There will be no refunds, except as per current hardship rules. Members cannot combine packages, but out of town guests can be charged against your Pack. He also described the Late Day Practice Pass, available for free to 75/95 Pack members.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened to questions:

- Brian Herod raised concerns about the impact of Enhanced membership on Weekly Member Groups, and about the application of dress code to Basic members/children using the facilities:- Points taken.
- Graham Mills voiced similar concerns and was reminded other Park residents cannot be treated as guests.
- Mary Harris asked how mixed 9 & 18 hole players will be treated:- Chris explained the chit system to be used.
- Dave Lynch was concerned that 35 Pack players will get favorable treatment over 95 Pack players for reservations.
- Aubrey Osborne asked how tournaments will be affected:- No problems are anticipated for Association members.
- Link Hersey asked how the GA Executive was involved in design of the new system:- They were consulted prior to finalisation; the pricing plan comes solely from the ML Board.
- Paul Smith asked when renovations will start:- Plan is to start April 1st, 2018, any preparatory work done before that is not expected to affect play.
- Bob Fields was told no contractors are signed yet.
- Aubrey Osborne asked what if project not completed on time:- Expectation is that we will be able to play on November 1st, 2018.

At this point, Chris Hemstead cut off questions, noting that Jeff and Chris would answer individual questions at the end of the meeting. He thanked them both for the excellent presentation

11. New Business – Open

None was raised.

12. Closing Remarks – Dick Keller

Dick introduced himself as our new President, telling us a little about himself and his wife Bev (formerly Bev Codlin). He believes it is important for the Association to have more input to and influence over ML Board decisions. He wants to focus on continuous improvement to increase club participation and help get golf operations close to breakeven.

He is confident the new team of Officers are able and willing to do a good job for us, mentioning specifically his support for the email initiative. He believes that major ML Clubs should be united in promoting the spirit of active living that has long made our park such a wonderful place to live; he read from a related message that he recently sent out to other Clubs.

13. Adjournment

At 5:30pm, Past President, John McMurray proposed the meeting be adjourned. Jim Iancale seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned.