

**Minutes of the Unit 194 Annual General Meeting  
Held Saturday, November 13, 2004 (Halifax)**

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**Present:** Jo Ann Lynds, Kathie Macnab, Karl Hicks, Edgar Blinn, Bram Schwartz, John Tolson, Suzanne Edwards, Barbara Rees, Mike Hartop and Bill Halliday.

Also present from the general membership: Beryl Higgs and Art Donahue.

**Absent:** Ted Withers, Dan Landry, George Holland, Hugh Shankel and Martin Pink.

1. Jo Ann Lynds called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
2. Minutes from the last general meeting were read by Karl Hicks and with no errors or omissions were moved for approval by Karl Hicks, seconded by Bram Schwartz; motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

3. The treasurer's report was given by Bill Halliday stating that Unit 194 received a bonus cheque of \$ 339.00 US from the ACBL for our increased membership recruitment and retention. The Unit financial report was moved for approval by John Tolson and seconded by Boyd Wells.

4. **Election of Officers** The new slate of Unit 194 Board of Directors was presented as follows:

President: Martin Pink  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Kathie Macnab  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Boyd Wells  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Halliday

**Area Representatives:**

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REP ..... Hugh Shankle  
CAPE BRETON REP .....Kerry Hicks  
CAPE BRETON REP ..... Bram Schwartz  
COLCHESTER REP ..... Boyd Wells  
ANTIGONISH REP.....Suzanne Edwards  
SOUTH SHORE REP ..... Hilary Hayden  
HALIFAX REP ..... John Tolson  
HALIFAX REP .....Barbara Rees  
HALIFAX REP ..... Dan Landry  
WEST NFLD. REP .....Joan Gilliam  
NEWFOUNDLAND REP ..... Randy Bennett

With no nominations from the floor the slate of officers was accepted.

5. Bill Halliday requested that the signing officers remain the same of 2003 – 2004 as the 1<sup>st</sup> vice President and Treasurer reside at the same address. **MOTION: It was moved by Boyd Wells and seconded by John Tolson that the signing officers for the term of 2004 – 2005 only will remain as Jo Ann Lynds, Bill Halliday and Martin Pink.** Motion carried.
6. **CAN-AT Report:** Bram Schwartz handed out copies of a report from Mr. Holland regarding the outcome of the CanAt. Mr. Holland strongly recommended that the dates of the CanAt be changed to a different time of the year. This is an ACBL decision not a Unit decision, it was also noted that Unit 230 is still very much in favor of the current dates set by the ACBL. (A copy of the report attached.) Discussion of a playing site for future CanAt ensued. **MOTION: It was moved by Bram Schwartz and seconded by Barbara Rees that a "Playing site committee" be struck headed by Gerry Callaghan to secure a site for the 2006 through to 2010 Unit 194 CanAts.** Motion carried.

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7. Mr. Halliday brought to the table the issue of the HST requirements during our Can-At years. **MOTION:** It was moved by John Tolson and seconded by Kathie Macnab that a Separate Society called the “Unit 194 Regional Tournament Society” be struck. This society will be chaired by Gerry Callaghan and will include 4 other voting members with the only member for the current Unit 194 Board of Directors being Bill Halliday, secretary/treasurer. The mandate of this Society will be to administer the CanAt when held in Unit 194. This society is to be formed by December 31, 2004. Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS**

8. **Directors Report:** Karl Hicks informed the Board of Directors that he will be unavailable to direct the January Unit STaC and has Stan Tench in place to do so. Mr. Hicks will also be unavailable to direct the February Sectional.
9. A letter was received from Mr. Ron Duplesia requesting an increase in pay for transporting the table to the tournaments for Unit 194. He would like an increase of \$50.00 per tournament. **MOTION:** It was moved by Barbara Rees and seconded by Suzanne Edwards that Ron Duplesia would receive an increase of \$50.00 per tournament effective January 2005. In favor 7, against 1, motion carried.
10. **MOTION:** Bill Halliday moved and Edgar Blinn seconded that Mr. Gerry Callaghan audit the Unit 194 books for the previous fiscal year. Motion carried.
11. **PROPOSAL** – Karl Hicks reviewed the conditions of contest laid out in the last issue of the Maritime Bridgeline for the “Nova Scotia Team Championships”. With some detail to be done the first playoff is to take place on the Thursday evening before the Halifax Winter Sectional in February between the final 2 Halifax Teams. Mr. Hicks will have more information at a later date.
12. The Unit 194 Board of Directors thanked Jo Ann Lynds for a job well done in the years she served as President of the Board.
13. Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Secretary Treasurer Unit 194

**Next Annual General Meeting:** Saturday in November 2005 at the Halifax Fall Sectional.

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**CANT-AT 2004 REPORT**

The 2004 Can-At was a success in every way except profit and loss. We met our budgeted table count, were below our budgeted expenses but holding the tournament resulted in a large loss to the Unit. This loss was entirely attributed to the cost of the playing space since our room quota was significantly below projections. As I explained to the Unit Board at the meeting in May in Bridgewater, it seems as if fewer and fewer people are choosing to stay at the host hotel if cheaper accommodations can be found elsewhere. This attitude has people, for example, staying at Dalhousie and Saint Mary's for \$25.00 per night rather than the hotel at rates anywhere from \$99.00 to \$139.00.

The hotel itself was a very poor facility from the standpoint of customer service. We constantly had to remind them to fill up the water pitchers, clean the playing rooms, clean the hospitality suites and do a lot of little things that make our members happy. I have to say that holding the event at the Lord Nelson at any time in the future would be a mistake.

Bill Halliday and I went through the financials and he will be able to deal with any specific questions relating to them, notwithstanding that they are very straightforward.

The Can-At as it exists will continue to drain the coffers of the Unit. In trying to plan for 2006, I have found that the only place willing to accommodate our needs is the World Trade Centre, and this is subject to change at any time. Additionally, the WTC would charge us approximately \$15,000.00 plus HST, which is not far off this year's cost at the Lord Nelson.

Most metro hotels will not take us as a function even if we can guarantee the room nights. It seems as if their prime focus is on food and beverage and they look for 2 nights of full sit-down meals in order for us to be considered.

The July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend, where in years past was a "down time" for the City's hotel business, is now one of their best times of the year. The NS Tattoo and other functions fairly fill up most of the hotels so they are dealing from strength when we approach them.

I think that the Board should consider attempting to move the Can-At to another time of the year when both universities are full of students so that players cannot take advantage of the incredibly cheap rates and might then migrate to the host hotel (or if at the WTC then hotels in the area). Having the tournament say, in October, might give us an advantage with hotels that could possibly make them more flexible towards us. The occupancy is lower in the "shoulder seasons" (Spring and Fall) unless there is a huge convention that books most of the rooms in the City.

If you continue to hold the Can-At in Halifax during the July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend, will surely continue to pay a large premium to do so. Some people have said that fund raising would be a good way to offset the loss, but there were many more (including the sage of Dominion, NS) who said that they tried that once and would not be up to doing it again. I don't blame them, as fund raising is a long and tough haul.

I recommend that the Board pursue the ACBL to make a change in the time of year that our Unit can hold our tournament (Unit 230, by the way is quite happy with July). I feel that we would be better off financially and attendance-wise if we could hold it say, in May or October. I realize that a lot of things have to happen to accomplish this change, but perhaps, with any luck, we can do something for 2006. Otherwise 2008 would be a target for the change.

I think that the Board should form a Committee to spearhead this challenge and suggest that Leo Weniger, Karl Hicks, Bryan Rapson and myself be included as members. I recommend that we immediately begin the process and lay out a strategic plan to make the necessary modification.

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Respectfully,  
George Holland