

GEWC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Golden Ears Winter Club

February 12, 2026

APPROVED

In Attendance: Meeting was held at the Golden Ears Winter Club

Glen Shipp; Janet Dunkin; Jay Wakefield; Ken Madu; Paul Dunkin; Jim Cottingham; Terry Hawley; Vince Hodges; Andrew Watsyk; Eric Samuelson

Management : Dean Joannis

Regrets: none

Chair: Glen Shipp

Recording Clerk: Janet Dunkin

Call to order: 7:20

The agenda is approved (Eric/Paul).

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 15 were approved as written (moved by Terry, seconded by Vince). Carried.

Special presentation: June Booth, Joanne Keegan

June and Joanne presented their concerns to the board as pertains to the Discover Curling school program. The current system places excessive demand on the volunteers. At times, they cover 2, 3 or even 4 sessions a week. Four volunteers are needed per group, so this works out to be approximately 32 hours per week, or 640 hours for a 20-week season. No other program is so demanding of its volunteers.

They had some suggestions for the board to consider. (see appendix below for details)

After some discussion, it was decided to tackle this at the next meeting.

1. Action items

1. Memorabilia committee: Dean and Andrew will form a committee and invite non-board members to join; they will report on progress next meeting. **ACTION: Dean and Andrew**
2. International Tankard: Terry Hawley has agreed to go; one other person can go and Terry will find someone. **ACTION: Terry**

3. Volunteer fees: 140 people have been refunded. This is deferred revenue of about \$17,000. It should be used to hire people (for example, for school groups, rentals or juniors).

2. Manager's report

As attached below.

Highlights: the east parking lot is rented to a film company for 8 days @ \$850 a day.

Volunteer appreciation survey: the purpose of this is to highlight our volunteers. Dean is setting this up on the TV corner and encourages everyone to send a photo and blurb about themselves. **ACTION: all**

Accessibility grant: Eric spoke to Sarah Mah. She can start building the application. Quotes from third party contractors are needed. The goal is to have access points for disabled people, including scoreboard access. The board agreed to fund some money (about \$500) to build a prototype. This will also help with ice surface maintenance and general ease of access. Once a prototype is ready, Dennis (friend of Eric) will create a schematic, then quotes will be obtained. **ACTION: Eric, Dean**

Complete in-camera system: Derek Seaton submitted a potential budget for this. There are questions. The board agreed to ask Derek to attend the next meeting to give more details.

Moved to receive the report: Jim/Paul. Carried

3. Treasurer's Report for January-February 2026

No information has been received from the bookkeeper. The amount in the bank is similar to last year. We won't have a big surplus to spend. Paul will send out a report in the next week or so. Moved to receive: Eric/Vince. Carried. **ACTION: Paul**

4. Committee reports

1. Bonspiel committee: Andrew reported that social media promos could be improved next year. A tweak is needed for bartender shifts. The Open is at 18 teams, and 20 would be ideal. Dean and Andrew have been brainstorming ideas for next year, for some different ideas and looks. The city needs to be contacted re improving the electric connections upstairs. **ACTION: Glen**
2. Strategic plan committee: Jim reported that some input from Shannon is still needed. He will do that and finish draft #3. It will hopefully be ready for approval and perusal by the March or April meeting. **ACTION: Jim and committee**

3. HR committee: This is ready to be presented at the next meeting. A special meeting will be held just to talk about this. **ACTION: Ken, Vince**

The other items b and c are tabled for now. (volunteer recognition and volunteer of the year; board nomination committee).

Next meeting: HR committee report meeting: March 5 @ 7:30 pm; regular meeting will be March 12 @ 7:30 pm.

Adjournment: 8:57 pm

SCHOOL GROUP suggestions:

- a. Pay one or two people to work the groups on a regular basis.
 - b. Pay volunteers a stipend for their work.
 - c. Give a discount on next year's fees for volunteer hours above a certain number.
 - d. Hire a co-ordinator to be responsible for filling volunteer gaps.
 - e. Reduce the number of days we offer school groups.
 - f. Offer morning times (9:00-10:30). Many teachers would prefer this time.
 - g. Make volunteer refund Sep to Dec and Jan to Mar. They have more difficulty getting volunteers after Christmas as many have "done their time".
 - h. Explain to membership that they do not need to have experience or be "expert curlers" to help; this is very basic instruction. Perhaps a coaching clinic could be offered for this.
 - i. Offer a drop-in program either after school or on the weekend.
 - j. Hire juniors to coach.
 - k. Offer 3- or 4-week sessions for 9-15 year olds.
 - l. Promote birthday parties at the club. Hire coaches to work them.
 - m. Have a handout for teachers to circulate with a puzzle or colouring to encourage interest in curling; this also serves as a reminder and information for parents.
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BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING: FEB 12, 2026

FACILITY UPDATE / CITY RELATIONS/CLUB UPDATE

- Exterior Lighting
 - Building wall packs - bulbs and fixtures replaced
 - Lamp standards - bulbs replaced
 - New light timer for lamp standards replaced.

- This is not connected to LED upgrade.
- City has been very prompt to address these issues
- Roof leak - five visits to try to find the roof leak in the back storage. It may have been fixed on the last visit
- Source Office Furniture was called in to fix the tables in lower lobby. They weren't properly installed with lock washers. They came in Feb 10th to apply the needed hardware to every table.
- As our stick curling population grows, the demand for more stick holders at mid ice has been addressed. There are now twice as many tubes per bench, for a total of 16.
- "Club Corner" TV is now mounted up in the front corner between the concession and front entry. We will explore the various uses of this TV to promote and celebrate GEWC curlers, partnerships, events and happenings. Although this will have a broader campaign for next season, we intend to launch a celebration of our volunteers over the final weeks before the season comes to a close.
- Strategic Plan is progressing along. We've had several discussions and meetings since last board meeting to continue refinements to this key document. Big thanks to Eric, Jim and Glen for their involvement.
- 50k Grant - Ice Shed Wheelchair accessibility Project (Dean & Eric to Speak)
- Year end spending - Final phase of the ice camera system is upon us. Derek Seaton has prepared a detailed budget of what's required for completion - see handout at meeting.

BONSPIELS

High School Regionals – Jan 30/31st, EXTENDED TO Feb 1st

Needed an extra draw on the Sunday to complete the event, Dean accommodated.

One Day Doubles Spiel – Feb 7th

Wonderful Job done by Sandi and Andrew Jenkins. Shout out to Andrew Watsyk for his BBQing skills. 24 teams enjoyed a wonderful event hosted by our club.

One Day Stick Bonspiel – Feb 20th

20 teams entered to date. Mel Zemliak is organizing again.

Open Spiel – Feb 28/Mar 1st

Bonspiel Committee organizing this event.

To date there are 18 teams registered.

OLYMPIC OPEN HOUSE

When – Saturday, Feb 21st. 12-4pm

Promos done on social media and email communication sent out to the membership. **Working on getting digital sign on highway showcasing event and the local paper to do a write up.**

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SURVEY

Dean to speak to.