



2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

11/29/16 7:00 PM
Community Room
Albert McCormick Arena
Parkside Drive, Waterloo

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Chris Hunter made a motion to approve the Minutes from the 2015 AGM. Brittany Robins seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Tim Sothern noted that the financial statements were available for review in the package handed to each attendee. He stated that the association's cash position is pretty much unchanged from last year. The association ran at break-even for this fiscal year. Revenues were up, largely due to higher registration in both our house league and representative programs. House League is doing well and we ran rep teams in all divisions, two in most. Rep tryout fees were charged this year for the first time. Spending also went up, with the association making a conscious effort to invest more in equipment due to increased revenues.

We finished the fiscal period with a modest \$635 profit. There were no questions.

Tim Sothern made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Seconded by Liz Richardson. Motion carried.

3. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President, D'Arcy Terpstra noted that she would follow in her predecessor, Paul Black's footsteps by not reading her report since it can be found in the AGM booklet. She did extend a sincere thank you to all of the volunteers who give so generously of their time, including coaches, executive members, and other volunteers.

4. REPORTS

The **Vice President, Representative**, Megan Shackell proffered thanks to every coach for his/her patience with her learning curve in her first year in this position. She, too, noted that she would not read her report, but did point out that we had nine rep teams for the 2016 season, including two Midget teams for the first time in many years. We will, again, have nine teams for the 2017 season. Megan also highlighted the many successes enjoyed by rep teams during the 2016 season and expressed that she is excited and looking forward to the coming year.

The **Vice President, House League**, Dean Clarke stated that his report could be found in the package, but he would talk about the pilot merger program that took place in the Bantam and Midget divisions. Overall, the merger of WMGSA and KMGSA players went very well, although there were some issues. The decision has been made to continue the pilot for 2017, and extend it to include the Squirt through Midget divisions. Players from both associations will be combined on teams in the four divisions. The WMGSA will share our training and development practices with coaches from both associations; coach participation will be mandatory. In addition, a "merger committee" will be formed, comprised of two representatives from each association; issues will be brought to the committee and then to the Boards, if necessary. Should the pilot go well, the merger will continue for future years. Feedback will be solicited from the membership. Dean went on to note that the WMGSA had two Select teams in 2016 and hopes to have three in 2017. Dave Geffros asked whether players from both associations would be on each team. Dean responded yes. Dave also asked if KMGSA coaches would go to the clinics. Yes, that is largely the point of this training. Trent Hilpert asked about numbers in the two associations. Cathy replied that this varies across divisions: in Squirt, each association put five teams on the field; in Novice, there were two Waterloo teams and three Kitchener teams; in Bantam and Midget, WMGSA players comprise from 30% - 40% of the players. Scott

Bieth questioned whether extending the house league season was a possibility. Discussion ensued. It couldn't happen for 2017, but the question will be put onto our year-end surveys to determine interest and commitment. Alternatives could also be examined, such as running two shorter seasons, which would offer families the option of signing up for one or both sessions.

Director of Coach & Player Development, Liz Richardson noted that her report is in the book for members to read. There were no questions.

Director of Marketing & Public Relations, Brittany Robins stated that her report is in the booklet for members to read. She pointed out that this was the first year for rep team pages, and it went well. She thanked all of the teams for their provision of a volunteer webmaster and their commitment to working together to update the web site.

5. CONSTITUTION BYLAWS, RULES, AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS

One proposed amendment was submitted to the Rep By-Laws, as follows:

Section 9. RESIDENCY Part A2 currently reads: Any player who resides outside of Waterloo, but played on a Waterloo Ghosts rep team in the previous year, is not considered an in import for the current year.

Proposed Change reads as follows: Any player who resides outside of Waterloo, but played on a WMGSA team in the previous year, is not considered an import for the current year.

There was a question as to whether this change was being suggested due to the HL merger. No, players will still register in their home associations and the merger will, therefore, not impact residency status. The suggestion is being made on behalf of families who choose to register their younger (T-Ball, Mini-Mite, and Mite) children in the WMGSA because of our unique programming.

Paul Black makes the motion that the amendment be approved as presented. Seconded by Jason Shackell. Carried.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Trent Hilpert asked whether it would be possible to use Bantam and Midget players as demonstrators/subjects in any coaching clinics (unofficial training & development clinics) that are run for both HL and rep coaches. He suggested that segments could be captured as video clips, which could then be shared with coaches. Paul Black recommended that we could also put the clips onto the web site as a training tool. Brittany Robins noted that we could do that, pending all required publicity releases.

Trent also asked whether it would be possible to put a Wall of Fame on the web site, to highlight girls who have gone on to play at college or university, both in Canada and the US. Paul replied that we have discussed that and it is in the works.

Trent also asked about the possibility of doing web registration, especially in advance of rep tryouts. Megan replied that we have plans to put the forms on the web, asking that families print them off and complete them. Trent noted that it would much easier if coaches knew, in advance, how many players would be attending tryouts. This would allow them to prepare properly. Paul Black responded that we will check into it for both House League and Rep.

Trent then mentioned that there is interest in hosting the Bantam Nationals for 2018. He is wondering about the availability of diamonds in Waterloo. He will get dates to Cathy so that this can be checked. Paul then asked Darcy Drummond, City liaison, about plans for new diamonds. Darcy replied that there will be a meeting in February, where this will be discussed. Paul also spoke about the possibility of "re-jigging" the RIM diamonds to make them softball (fast pitch) appropriate vs. Slo-pitch specific. Darcy noted that all of this will be discussed at the February meeting.

Don Oberle reported that there are plans to bid for a "regional" Midget nationals in 2018. Peter Hallman Ballyard would be the host facility. He continued by noting that Hallman seems to be the "softball centre" for Kitchener, Waterloo, and even Cambridge. He questioned whether it would be possible to advocate for an equivalent facility in Waterloo so that we would have the opportunity to host such events here.

Conversation again turned to the lack of nets at Hillside. Discussion surrounded the costs and questions about the WMGSA, Boys Fastball, and other user groups chipping in to help get them into place. Paul expressed thanks to the City for what has already been done, but noted that we need to finish what was started in order to make the facility what we would like it to be.

Volunteer pins were handed out to long-standing volunteers. Trent Hilpert and Paul Black received their ten-year pins and Chris Hunter and Tim Sothern received five-year pins.

7. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The new executive was elected. There is one open position: Umpire-in-Chief.

The election was closed.

Many House League Convenors are still required.

D'Arcy Terpstra thanked everyone for attending.

Trent Hilpert made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:03 p.m. Seconded by Brittany Robins. Carried.