

WRSSBA 2016 Annual General Meeting

Thursday October 5th, 2016 @ 7:30pm

Mark T. (Secretary) moved, Sheridan A. (Umpire-in-Chief) seconded to adopt minutes of 2015 minutes.

Outgoing president Mike G. as chair welcomed the participants and called to order at 7:34pm. Appealed to gathered association members to conduct themselves well and in order. Thanked the Executive and other volunteers for hard work. Noted that Tadpole won BC Minor championship and other divisions did well too. Spoke to upgrades with websites and registration processes. Have left the association in good financial shape. Thanked association for the opportunity to serve.

Mark D. (VP Senior) thanked Executive for hard work. Commended Jeff Mager overseeing Midget. Expressed concern that Bantam had a harder time of it this year.

Bob C. (VP Junior) noted that the 12 and down age groups comprise the majority of the association. Slightly higher registration this year, which brings its own logistical problems. Special thanks to Brent F. who oversaw Rally Cap and mounted a great program. Only one Rally Cap Day this year due to a rain-out of the second Rally Cap Day. More coaches attended coaching development clinics this year than before. Todd Nadon oversaw 11U Mosquito and it went well, albeit not without hurdles. Possibility in these divisions to implement customized rules. 11/12 Majors/Minors ran this year with an increase of 10 players. Ran Development practices and games for both Majors and Minors. A 12 year-old team played some interlock games throughout the season. In Summer there were 3 teams fielded – one all-star and two selects.

Mike G. gave Registrar's report in Anneve G.'s absence. Did not raise registration fees, but numbers were at a 6-year high.

Mel T. (Treasurer) reported that the Executive implemented new volunteer fee/opt-out fee. Training centre rentals increased slightly. Fall and Winter training numbers were up as well, but off-set by operational expenses. Merchandise sales up. Received full \$50K BC government gaming grant – not always a sure thing, so that was welcome. Ran less tournaments. Randy McKinnon grossed \$30K worth of sponsors, an unprecedented amount. In terms of expenses, Arnie Coones scholarship for umpires will come out of next fiscal year. Contract labour expenses the same as last year. Field maintenance costs were higher than the year before, but Martin F. was able to keep the expenses under control thanks to his expertise. Under capital funds, the batting cages were the big expense. We were, however, able to cut expenses in equipment.

Brent F. asked question about \$34K uniform line. Robyn K. (Uniforms & Merchandise) broke it down by item. \$23K actual budget and was actually spent. Budget for next year Spring is \$21K and Summer is \$8K.

Sheridan A. reported that this was his first year as UIC and 6th year as umpire in this association. Had agreed to come on board if the association would fund a mentorship program, so that 1) young umpires would be encouraged, and that 2) they would grow as umpires. Thanked the association for its support, Cheri Tubbs as allocator, and John K. as equipment manager. 60 active umpires, up from 30 active umpires last year (54 on roll) that worked 10 games or more. Got BCBUA involved in providing guidance, information, and instruction in setting up the umpiring association. Cloverdale did 20 mentorships in

their first year, but we did 80 in our first year. 100 mentorships is the goal and it is needed, especially at the grassroots level (12 year old umpires). In the past there was a 50% turnover rate of umpires, but Sheridan is confident that the dropout rate will be substantially reduced, which in turn adds value to the program. Umpires that are competent, passionate, committed, dedicated, interested is key. Looks at it as a five-year program and this has been a good beginning. Encouraged by umpires, parents, and some coaches. Hopes new Executive will continue to fund the mentorship program in the future.

NEWS FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT ON BC MINOR: Executive Mandate from BC Minor to allow us to play house baseball within 11U division in a tiered fashion. Has been working with Cloverdale and Richmond with support from Ridge Meadows on a motion to embed the rule in the BC Minor rules at BC Minor AGM.

Peewee has traditionally had Peewee A and AA teams, which could become AAA in Summer. Consensus among bigger BC Minor associations to support season-long AAA, AA, and A with roster movements, much as has happened in Bantam divisions. Roster movements possible from up and down. Has sat in many meetings with BC Minor over the years, and hears a different tone from BC Minor than before, when they were dealing with BC Baseball.

Little League has canceled their Big League 17-19 year-old programs, which is equivalent to Midget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Comment from floor: thanks to Executive for volunteering. Seems like association is ignoring A-level players, and numbers are dwindling after age 12. Mike G. responded that this is a problem across baseball, and we are desperately trying to address this. Single teams are our bedrock within this organization because they comprise the majority of community baseball players. If this is a concern, please bring concerns and solutions to this. Mark D. gave a personal view that he made mistakes as a coach and coordinator, focusing on Summer teams, and has tried to redress the issue in recent years.

ELECTIONS TO BOARD (already sent to Heather)

Peewee Coordinator secret ballot was held, with two deadlocks. Raymond moved, Randy seconded, that current outgoing Executive vote to resolve deadlock. Todd Nadon withdrew. Dana Davis acclaimed.

Business on agenda completed, meeting adjourned (time unknown).