

V.W.F.L. ~ Annual General Meeting

Wednesday January 24, 2007

The Paisley Restaurant

880 Esquimalt Rd

MINUTES

Attendance Present: Dawn Evans, President
Brenda Parke, Treasurer
Michelle Fredette, Secretary
Tamara Arnold, Tournament Director
Darcy Hill, Registrar
Kiersten Kirkpatrick, Statistician

All teams from 2006 season were represented.

Call to Order Dawn Evans brought the meeting to order at 7:15pm

Introductions and Welcome Dawn Evans welcomed everyone to the 2007 AGM and the Executive was introduced to the membership.
Dawn introduced Shannon O'Brien-Lepp, who will hopefully be introducing a new team to the league (found out about the league by attending the Getting to Know You Tournament).
Dawn introduced Lori Skinner, Softball BC representative, and Vincent Greco, Umpires Association.

Old Business

- **Congratulations**

Kiersten Kirkpatrick congratulated:

The Wild for winning the 2006 Ice Breaker

The A's for winning the regular season

The Heat for winning the playoffs

The Panthers for winning the Sue Beischer Tournament

Kiersten also mentioned that it was nice to see more than one team win everything for a change.

- **Approval of Agenda**

The 2007 AGM Agenda was motioned for approval by Lori Skinner and seconded by Mike Weber. *Carried.*

- **Approval of Minutes**

The 2006 AGM minutes were motioned for approval by Ken Logue and seconded by Sharon Stewart. *Carried.*

- **Treasurer's Report**

- We were very good at spending our "excess" money last season.

- The website cost more than in previous years we had to pay for 2 years because we didn't receive the bill. This upcoming season it will cost \$102.
- Water expenses went up because the Sue Beischer tournament was on one of the hottest weekends of the year, however, the beer tent revenue went up.
- We will need to re-evaluate our spending for the 2007 season.
- We have about \$1500 in our bank account right now (with the website paid for).
- Balls were paid for by the league last season as a way of bringing down our "excess" money in our bank account. It was a one time only thing, so it is not an expense that the league will have this year.
- Brooke Somers asked about the projections for costs for the 2007 season – Yet to come in the New Business Financials.

- **Eligibility**

- Lori Skinner – Minor players (under 19 years of age as of January 2007) must have parental forms signed and to Lori before they can practice. These forms must be forwarded by Lori to Lloyd Johnson (SVI) for his approval for the minor players to be able to play in our league (3rd year midgets are usually ok, but not 1st and 2nd year).
- Teams who have minor age players are to have the signed parental forms in at the first Team Representative meeting in April.
- Mike Cownden asked about midget players as pick-ups during our regular season. Those minor aged players will still need signed parental forms turned in to Lori for them to be able to play in our league.
- Mike Weber asked about a limit of times pick-ups can play (to be discussed later in the meeting)

New Business

- **Number of teams**

- We're looking at possibly having 9 teams
- Shannon O-Brien-Lepp is trying to put together a team of junior aged players.
- All teams are looking to be ok for this season.
- As our field applications are due by February 2 this year (a month earlier than previous years), knowing how many teams we will have is important, as if we have 9 teams, we will need to apply for one more field than last season. As we are not likely to know for certain by February 2, we will most likely have to apply for the extra field.
- Donna Sereda asked about the league's inquiring about Central Park. This topic will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Intent to enter will still be required by March at the Team Representatives meeting, but the sooner any teams know, the better.

- **Fields**

- Last year Dawn Evans was told to ask about our having use of Central Fields (behind the Crystal Pool)
 - Stuffy McGinnis Men's league have both fields, however they only use 1.

- City of Victoria needs the OK from Stuffy McGinnis to give up the 2nd field to our league. We should also ask the City of Victoria to clean up the fields and do some maintenance before we play on them if we get the OK.
- Mike Weber – Asked whether we should put together a fields committee to help with the field situation so that Dawn doesn't have to do so much. Should be the Vice President, and when a new one gets elected tonight, it will be that person's responsibility.
- Question as to whether there are any objections to Central Field were put out to the membership. None.
 - Vince Greco pointed out that the fields are good, but will need to do a walk-about before every game to ensure that there is no "debris" on the field.
- Dawn to call John Bishop (Stuffy McGinnis) about the 2nd field for both Monday and Wednesday nights.
- Dawn also spoke to Mike Cownden (Cordova Bay) and Ken Logue (View Royal) about getting more field usage at their parks.
- The new Vice President should keep on the City of Victoria about field maintenance (re: Vic West, etc...).
- Dawn informed the membership that we could not have View Royal for the Ice Breaker on April 28-29. So, the executive is looking at 2 options.
 - a) Play Ice Breaker at Cordova Bay April 28-29
 - OR
 - b) Play Ice Breaker at View Royal April 21-22
- The executive is trying for option A first.

- **Tentative Dates**

- Ice Breaker April 28-29, although that may change as mentioned above.
- League play starts Monday April 30, or Wednesday May 2 depending on when we can have access to the fields.
- Sue Beischer Tournament July 21-22

- **Sue Beischer Tournament logistics**

- Last year we had an issue with getting View Royal fields, and then with getting beer garden permit for Cordova Bay.
- AGM a few years ago, it was decided by the membership to continue having Sue Beischer tournament with beer garden (even though at the time not profitable). It is for this reason that last year the executive made the decision to have the tournament at Colville so there would be a beer garden, which we were unable to have at Cordova Bay.
- Question put forward to the membership as to what we should do if the same situation should arise this year.
 - Brewers mentioned that their sponsor, Spinnakers, could run a beer tent from which they would take the profits.
 - Decision to go with the beer garden wherever possible motioned by Kat Mui and seconded by Krystle Smith. *Carried.*

- **League Wear**

- It's very nice; if you're interested please contact a member of executive.

- **New Players**
 - The Storm, The Brewers and the Heat are looking for a pitcher.
 - The Panthers need 3 new players.
 - The Brewers need 5 new players.

- **Softball BC**
 - Lori Skinner congratulated the Wild, the A's, the Heat, and the Panthers for going to the Senior D Provincials Aug 5-7, 2006 at Softball City.
 - This year's provincials will be held in:
 - Senior B Women July 20-22 @ Hyacinth Park
 - Senior C Women Aug 3-5 @ Prince George
 - Senior D Women Aug 3-5 @ Kamloops
 - Junior A & C Women July 27-29 @ Hyacinth
 - Softball BC now has to be sustainable to itself (no more government funding) because after 2012 there will no longer be fastball at the Olympics; no men's teams play for the Canada Cup, etc...
 - SO... fees must be raised as we now have to give Softball Canada \$40,000/year (up from \$10,000/year).
 - Softball BC player fees will be going up by \$5 every year for the next 3 years (to end up at \$25/player). Fees included in 2007 VWFL Insurance and Registration handout.
 - Softball BC is going to concentrate on long-term development. More focus on younger players. So, the fee increases will benefit the kids rather than us.
 - Rule change re: Provincials:
 - In a tournament of 10 or more teams, if a team has a record of 3-1, they will automatically proceed to the double knock-out round.
 - Darcy Hill informed the membership that registration and insurance fees will be due by June 1 along with completed Softball BC roster.

- **Golf Tournament**
 - Brenda Parke talked about what a success last year's golf tournament was, and asked if there was anyone interested in taking over organization of this year's tournament. Kiersten Kirkpatrick volunteered to do so. Kiersten will also look into a different venue, as people weren't entirely happy with last year's location.

- **Umpires**
 - Vince Greco
 - Dawn Evans did not receive correspondence from umpires about changes in fees.
 - Umpires registration fees are going up this year, so what we for umpire/game will be going up by \$1 this year, and then another \$1 next year (so that moves cost up to \$36/game).
 - There are many rule changes, but only a few that will impact our league
 - Designated Player will now be called the Flex player (#10 spot in the lineup)

- It is likely that the umpire's association will lose some umpires due to the increases in their fees.
- Dawn Evans brought up to Vince that were some game nights last season when the league was not given notice that no umpire would be showing up
 - Asked if we could please be given more notice from the umpires when possible so that we can reschedule our games.
 - Jo Irvine suggested implementing a cell phone system, where one person's cell phone number/team is made available to Dawn so that in case of an umpire being unable to show up near game time, teams can be contacted as soon as is possible.

- **Financials**

- Brenda Parke went over financial statement with the membership noting that we are left with approximately \$850.
- We don't want the account balance to fall below \$1000 as at the beginning of the season we have to pay our field costs before the league fees are in from the teams.
- Proposed fee increase of \$75/team, which would bring league fees up to \$675/team.
- Brewers asked about trophy expenses... what are they? Expenses include engraving of trophies, prizes (for MVP, Most Spirited, Most Improved). Asking for prize donations from the teams, however it was pointed out how difficult a time the league has in getting prizes for the golf tournament.
- A's suggested looking for a beer sponsor for the league (such as slo-pitch teams do for tournaments)
 - Krystle Smith pointed out that slo-pitch teams pay for the prize packages.
 - Chelsey Oman said that she will talk to a Labatt rep she knows.
- Fee increase to \$675/team motioned for approval by Krystle Smith, seconded by Mike Cownden. Vote taken, majority voted in favour of increase. Motion *Carried*.
- Mike Cownden asked if the league is looking at changing the balls the league uses.
- Erin Cousins asked about the league changing to raised seam balls as that is what is used at provincials
 - the league will not be changing to raised seams, but if teams plan on going to provincials, they can practice with raised seams to prepare.
- Mike Weber suggested the league come to a consensus on what balls we're using to ensure that all teams are using the same balls.
- Michelle Fredette said that she would talk to Team Works to find out about ordering balls through them rather than from Kirby's. Donna Sereda said that she would talk to Sports Traders as well.

- **Additions to Agenda**

- Ken Logue suggested raising league fees by \$100, and have the league still buy the balls for all the teams.
 - Last year was the first season the league purchased the balls for the teams, it was done specifically to spend excess money that was in the league account. Also, raising fees by \$100 would not be sufficient to cover increases in costs, as well as the purchase of balls for the teams.

- **Constitution**

- Executive has had many meetings to come up with potential wording for changes/amendments to the league constitution.

1. Suggested that the league make consistent the “final team list” with the Softball BC team Registration form

- this means that a player cannot play on one team during the season, while signing on another teams roster for the purpose of playing with another team for provincials (such as a junior player playing on a senior team during the season, but signing on a junior team’s roster so they can go to provincials with the junior team).

- Mike Weber – June 1 seems rather late (June 1 was suggested as a possible date for the final team list to be handed in) for our league as that is the half way point in regular season play.

- Dawn Evans mentioned that the original reason for this possible change in date (from May 15) was to allow for part-time players

- Mike Weber – even with the earlier date for the final list to be in, teams can go to the executive if they have a player that they would like added to the roster after May 15, as long as this is before the Softball BC entry deadline.

- Jo Irvine asked whether there is a rule saying a player has to be on final team list for regular season play.

- Dawn – all players, including pick-ups and spares should be on team list.

- Lori Skinner – You can’t just pick up any player off the street. A player must be signed to a Softball BC roster somewhere. Teams cannot pick up from slo-pitch teams either, as slo-pitch teams are signed up as recreational, so different insurance.

- **Softball BC Roster must be consist of players on your official team roster within the league motioned for approval by Lori Skinner, seconded by Krystle Smith. Motion PASSED.**

- Dawn Evans – initial team list must be in by the Ice Breaker Tournament.

- Anybody not on that team list that you want to play before final list is handed in... need to declare? Go to Executive to have added to the roster if they’re going to play.

- It was brought up that we can only really pick up from midget teams as slo-pitch and ortho teams are recreational (different insurance coverage).

- **Any eligible ball player can only play 3 games in our league as a pick-up, at a cost of \$10/player to the team. After the 3 games, the player must make the decision to either continue playing in our league, or they can no longer play as a pick-up in the V.W.F.L for the remainder of the season motioned for approval by Krystle Smith, seconded by Stephanie Fredette.**

- **Vote of membership that is present taken. Yes – 17. No – 7. Motion PASSED.**

- Erin Cousins suggested that rather than have a limit on how many times 1 player can be picked-up to play in our league, we should limit how many players 1 team can pick up during 1 game.

- Donna Sereda then asked about eligibility.

- Dawn Evans – the league is going back to handing in all score sheets, and eligibility forms re: eligibility for playoffs to the Statistician.
2. Changes/updates to Roles as outlined in the Constitution
 - **Statistician:**
 The Statistician shall monitor the results of each scheduled game including umpires, MVPs and scores submitted by Team Representatives. At the end of the season, she will make league MVP names available to the Registrar. From team score sheets provided to her at the end of each round, the Statistician shall tally games played by each player to confirm eligibility for playoffs.
Motioned for approval by Erin Cousins. Seconded by Donna Sereda. PASSED.
 - **Secretary:**
 The Secretary shall be present at and record the minutes of all meetings and shall prepare and distribute copies to the Members of the Executive and Team Representatives. The Secretary shall also set up and head a Newsletter Committee made up of volunteers from the Membership-at-large, to plan, produce and distribute to each team before the end of the first round of regular season play a newsletter outlining current League statistics, activities, upcoming events, etc.
Motioned for approval by Donna Sereda. Seconded by Val Przybysz. PASSED.
 3. Amendments to Constitution
 - **Article 7 – Members:**
 Each team in the V.W.F.L. shall elect two(2) Team Representatives at the beginning of the season.
 Each Team, at or before the Ice Breaker Tournament, shall submit an Initial Team Roster to the Statistician. The Softball BC Roster (formerly the Final Team Roster) shall be submitted on or before May 15 of each year. A collection of all Softball BC Rosters will be given to each Team Representative prior to the commencement of playoffs. Teams not submitting Softball BC Rosters by the above deadlines may be subject to default of scheduled games up until the time these lists are submitted to the Statistician.
Motioned for approval by Donna Sereda. Seconded by Krystle Smith. PASSED.
 - **Article 7(a) – Eligibility – Regular Season**
 A player who is unable to play in half of the regular season games and feels that, due to extenuating circumstances, she should be permitted to play in the playoffs shall have her Team Representative submit a written request for exemption to the President.
Motioned for approval Krystle Smith. Seconded by Donna Sereda. PASSED.
 - **Article 9 – Game Rules**
 The Home Team shall:
 - Put the bases and pitching rubber in by 6:00pm

- Provide a new game ball; AND
- Input the game score, MVP for the opposing team, umpire's name and any pick-ups and associated fees to the Statistician.

The Visiting Team shall:

- Supply a presentable alternate game ball; AND
- Input the game score, MVP for the opposing team, umpire's name and any pick-ups and associated fees to the Statistician.

All teams shall notify the Statistician within 24 hours of the time of the scheduled game.

**Motioned for approval by Marg LeGuilloux. Seconded by Val Przybysz.
PASSED.**

- **Elections**

- Dawn Evans mentioned that the role of Vice President is currently vacant.
- Jo Irvine brought up that she would like for there to be a representation from all teams in the league on the Executive.
- Glyn Smith said that the League should make it mandatory that someone from each team be on the Executive. Dawn Evans brought up that there are two major issues with that.... 1) that there are not enough positions on the Executive, and 2) that that is something that would need further discussion first, and could be brought up again at next year's AGM.

- Registrar – Darcy Hill was willing to remain in the position. – *Acclaimed.*
- Tournament Director – Tamara Arnold was willing to remain in the position. – *Acclaimed.*
- Statistician – Kiersten Kirkpatrick was willing to remain in the position. – *Acclaimed.*
- Treasurer – Brenda Parke was willing to remain in the position. – *Acclaimed.*
- Secretary – Michelle Fredette was willing to remain in the position. – *Acclaimed.*
- Vice President – Krystle Smith was nominated by Val Przybysz, she accepted. – *Acclaimed.*
- President – Dawn Evans was willing to remain in the position. – *Acclaimed.*

Jo Irvine thanked the Executive for all of their hard work over the past season, and for the upcoming season.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Dawn Evans at 9:39pm.

Michelle Fredette
Secretary