

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 27, 2006

BLACKBURN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Meeting is called to order at 7:30pm. Jim thanks all attendants. Jim has described the meeting itinerary.

Motion to approve the minutes from last year. Motion by Mike Peskie and seconded by Peter Kennedy. All are in favor the motion is passed unanimous.

Stews Presentation:

As a board, we decided to purchase new jerseys. Our reasoning for the new jerseys are the following: the silk screening was fading and the older player jerseys needed to be replaced. The jerseys are currently 5 years old. There are 5 different designs to choose from. We are going with Sport Biz due to cost. There price is \$32 per jersey which is a difference of \$15 per jersey when comparing with local sport companies. Stew is explaining differences in the quality of the jerseys. The kids could use their current socks with any of choices of sweaters. It takes 16 weeks to get the order so that is why we are going the vote tonight. Mike Peskie is asking if the weight of the jersey will make the kids sweat more that the old jerseys. Stew explained no and the reasons. We will take 10 minutes to allow everyone to do the vote.

President – Jim Shepherd

This has been a very successful year in our Association - on the ice - and off. I'd like to begin by highlighting some of the accomplishments of your Executive Committee:

- Thanks to the efforts of our Ways and Means Director, Lori Pancel, we saw the Stingers logo displayed proudly on the ice surface, as well as the installation of our Information board in the lobby.
- Our Ice Scheduling was ably handled this year by Karen Jacques-Irvine, with remarkable efficiency and fair ice to all teams. Karen took this job on, this year, and did an amazing job keeping everyone happy and meeting the “Rubik’s cube” demands of the ice scheduler’s role.

- Our finances continue in excellent shape thanks to the diligent efforts of Kim Shonfield. As some of you already know, Kim has decided to pass the torch with her announcement that she won't be running for the VP Finance again this year. We thank her for the many years of dedication she has given our Association and know we can rely on her experience and advice in the future.
- Building on the foundation of our improving relationship with the City and the GHA we saw a shift in the allocation of our ice this year. It must be pointed out this is due, in a large part, to the patience and persistence of Greg Smallwood, our VP Hockey Operations. The results of his effort show when almost all our practice ice and home games were held here in Blackburn.
- Managing the Association's equipment is a largely unheralded job, but has been once again expertly handled by Stew Shonfield. And a year end surprise: under Stew's watch, our equipment portfolio has actually made a profit this year!
- Our very own Maurice Archambault has brought his formidable experience to the dual roles of VP Admin while simultaneously acting as Past President and representative to the Rep "B" program. Mo has filled so many roles within our Association it's hard to pick one he hasn't done. Thanks to Mo's counsel and advice our Rep "B" year passed successfully and we look forward to relying on his expertise in the coming seasons.
- We'll hear the details in her report, but just knowing Bev McKeown is on the job in the Discipline Chair is to say everything is – and was – well taken care of throughout the season. Discipline Chair isn't the most popular but can be the most vilified role on the Executive and we're very fortunate to have someone who is so tremendously knowledgeable and dedicated in this position.

Now, there's one person on the Executive I haven't mentioned: Catherine Tremblay, our Registrar and Secretary. At the start of the year Catherine was swamped with manually porting our entire registration database over to a new Hockey Canada registration system that had basically no support. With dedication that is the model of what the best a volunteer can be, Catherine persevered and accomplished the difficult transition from the old system to the new. As Secretary, she has attended and recorded all our Board meetings. Earlier this year, after announcing her intention to make this her last year, she graciously rescinded her decision when yet another new and improved registration system was announced by Hockey Canada. On behalf of a grateful Association I'd like to thank Catherine for her dedication and professionalism in all matters and for giving us another season to rely on her experience and skill.

This year we saw a major change in the team allocation chart and its interpretation. Historically, we were at the mercy of the GHA Board if we wanted to modify the allocation chart in the Bantam and Midget divisions. As a result of a co-coordinated approach with documentation, statistics and testimonials, aided by a healthy assist from the Cumberland Minor Hockey Association, we've effected a change in the Rules such that in coming years we will be able to make the allocation decision as an Association, in the best interests of the players, rather than having the GHA make the decision for us.

Throughout the season we had many teams wage successful campaigns and bring home trophies from tournaments across our city and from as far away as London, Ontario. Personally, I was very pleased to hand Championship medals and a Trophy to our Pee Wee B Stingers at our Blackburn Pee Wee Tournament. At the end of the regular season play-offs we had four teams in their respective division Championship games: Novice C, Pee Wee C, Pee Wee B and Midget B. Of these four finalists, three were successful in their bid for a banner – Pee Wee C & B, and the Midgets.

To keep the universe in balance, every electron has a proton. And while we did get almost all practices and games at our arena, it has impacted our revenues from the canteen. This, coupled with the looming Tim Horton's franchise in the lot next to the arena, and the City's outrageous back to back 9% and 10% annual increase in our ice fees means we may be facing significant increases in registration fees in the coming years. We will keep a close eye on this situation and will make every effort to keep hockey affordable and accessible to as many of the children in our community as possible.

Finally, as an Association, we must continue involving new players in this most excellent game. As we stand right now, our new players are fewer than our graduating and departing players. Our boundaries are not going to change in the foreseeable future. We have to make hockey more attractive to all players, yes, but especially the younger ones – at the hockey school and novice age: players 5-7 years old. This is probably the biggest challenge we face with an aging population demographic within our Association boundaries.

But, before feeling overwhelmed, consider this: our Association draws approximately 435 players from an area served by no less than 6 elementary and middle schools. This means we are attracting, conservatively, less than 30% of the eligible children within our boundaries. It is my goal to recruit more of the uninvolved 70% of eligible children and to achieve stasis in our annual numbers.

Before concluding my address, I'd you to hear from one of our Association members, Donna Wells, and what her impressions of our organization are, and maybe give you all something to think about the next time someone asks you why your children are in hockey...

Hi Jim,

My son played on the Stingers Novice A team this year, and I just wanted to write and let you know what a fabulous job I thought their coach, Mike Peski, did this year. He took a group of boys who, quite frankly, were not all “A” caliber players, and turned them into a great team. He taught them the basics of proper skating, how to play their positions well, how to pass the puck to their teammates and how to protect their goalie.

Not only did Mike teach them great hockey skills, he taught them great life skills that will serve them well down the road of life. He taught them about respect for their dressing room, for their coaches, for the teams they played, for each other and most importantly for themselves. He also taught them the importance of always trying your hardest, of sportsmanship, and that the game of hockey is about having fun, win or lose.

The Blackburn Minor Hockey Association was well represented by the Novice A team this year, at games in town and out, and this was directly through the influence of their coach, Mike Peski.

Sincerely,

DonnaWells

This concludes my report. Before moving on I would like to thank each member of the Executive and the Board for their support, advice and friendship in the last year and look forward to our next season - on the ice – and off.

VP Administration Maurice Archambault

No Report Received

VP Hockey Operations – Greg Smallwood

1. Aims and Objectives
 - Players have overwhelmingly indicated that they enjoyed playing with their team this year.
2. Coaches
 - We are fortunate to have a first-rate group of coaches, who put many hours and a lot of heart into developing our children as players and as good citizens.
 - The players mostly indicated that their coaches were “Very Good” or “Good” in the coach evaluations.
3. GHA
 - We were successful in our desire to produce a breakdown of players amongst the house league tiers that reflected their skills and capabilities, resulting in a revision of the rules by the GHA.
 - Over 90% of our practice ice and home games were at the Blackburn Arena, a marked improvement.
4. BMHA Success
 - I know all our teams would like to be competing for the championship every year. Out of our nineteen House League teams, four advanced to the GHA Finals, with three emerging as champions. Congratulations to all the BMHA teams for a well-contested season within the GHA.
 - Many of our teams performed well in tournaments – too numerous to mention all of them, but it was particularly gratifying to hear of teams that were having a trying season in league play raise the bar in tournament play.
 - Success is not measured by winning, but by players developing a love for the sport of hockey, and the players have indicated that we are achieving this goal.
5. Volunteers
 - Our organization is run entirely by volunteers at all levels, from the coaches and team officials to the members of the Board. Their time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Registrar – Catherine Tremblay

- At this time there is not much to add to the meeting. Just wanted to make sure everyone is aware that the registrations forms have gone out and the dates for the end of early registration has not changed. I have booked our registration night at the Blackburn Hamlet Community Centre on June 22 from 7 to 9pm. I am hoping that our registration will go much better this year than last due to problem with the database. I am confident that all will work out.

Discipline – Bev McKeown

Did not have to have any coaches sit out this year which was the first in her 6 years. Checking from Behind was a real problem this year compared to last year. We had many more fights this year than other years. We had no hearings from the GHA or the ODMHA which was also a first. Want to thank everyone to keep everyone in line.

Treasurer - Kim Shonfield

Sales are down significantly 10% due to having all our practices at the Blackburn Arena and the games elsewhere. The administrations report. If we look at fee revenue we had 365 players rather than 420 which is a big loss. We made an income from the General Equipment due to selling socks to players. Mr. Lisk is asking did we loose \$15,000 this year due to smaller registration number. Kim's answer is no because our numbers at the beginning of the year the numbers are only projected.

Ways and Means and Public Relations– Lori Pancel

We attended the Blackburn Parade and we did some of the clinics for the coaches. Did many things at the arena and put the trophy case together. The End of Year party planning is going very well. It will be a little different by I think all will be happy with the change. All the decorations and the ice painting was organized without any problems. The Arena is starting to look very nice and much more organized. There are more things that I would like to do for next year and on-going projects which will go on over the summer. The Registration Night Sandwich boards will be put out two days before the registration to hopefully get as many new players as possible.

Equipment Manager – Stewart Shonfield

Sold old goalie equipment last year at the community sale. The trend towards parents purchasing their own goalie gear has increased. This year we spent \$1800 versus past years we have spent \$4000. Next year the Goalie pads will have to fall under the NHL goalie pad size.

Ice Scheduling – Karen Jacques

Very busy year and did very well. Jim and Greg thanked Karen for a super job in her first year as Ice Scheduler. Job well done.

IP – Erich Neumann

IP kids all had a great time and we had many great helpers. Norm is adding that we may need to advertise more than we did last year. Adds in the Banner, the school new letters and our web-site. One will be at the arena during ball hockey. We need to develop a more effective tool to get the younger kids into hockey. The only other issue is nobody has come forward to the IP convener position.

Novice – Sean Murray

Novice had a great year. There were 4 teams with three lines on every team. The coaches from all the teams talked this year and communicated between each other. The strength of the two B teams were very equal and were divided well. All reports from all the players and parents were great and positive. As a first year convener he had a great year with many parents helping

Atom - Monique Hayes

All the teams did very well and had a great time. Reports from the coaches and from the kids were very positive

Pee wee – Randy Arnott

This was my fourth year as convener and things went reasonably well. There were a few minor problems at the beginning of the year, most of them about the number of players on the teams. Most of these problems resolved themselves once the teams started into the season.

The evaluations appear to have worked once again. The three teams all had very good regular seasons finishing near the top of their divisions but not running away with everything showing that the teams were in fact playing where they belonged. The playoffs brought great success for the three teams with the B and C teams winning the championships and the A team losing out in the semi finals. From what I could tell all of the players and most of the parents seemed to have had fun. Congratulations to all for another great year and I hope to see everyone back next year.

Pee wee Tournament Report – Jim Shepherd

Pee Wee Tournament Report: 10-12-12 640 players, 3-refs at all A games, B won, on 21K revenue – 5728 profit, 18K over 3 years, thanks to Sue Croteau, Anne Laybolt.

Bantam – Brenda Feely

Happy to say that all three teams finished very well. We had very few parent complaints and very few disciplinary problems. A very successful year.

Midget – Cathy Parent

My biggest complaint is how the teams were split this year. I know that it was out of our hands but hopefully for the kids sake next year a valuable lesson has been learned. There were some kids who were truly not happy with the year and I understand why.

Juvenile – Maurice

This is our second year to have Juvenile. Our team finished 9th. The group of players were very good with just a little over 2 lines. Out penalty minutes were just under 800 minutes. Attendance by the players were very good.

Motion to accept the year end reports motion by Brent Seabrook and seconded by Leslie Lisk all are in favor motion passed unanimous. Motion Carried

We have to amend the Constitution the Title page seconded by Kim and are in favor Motion Carried.

BMHA Executive Nominations

President: - Jim Shepherd – by acclamation

VP Operations – Greg Smallwood – by acclamation

VP Administration – Maurice Archambault – by acclamation

VP Finance – Fiona Daigle – by acclamation

Registrar/Secretary – Catherine Tremblay – by acclamation

Past President – Maurice Archambault

Discipline Chair – Beverly Mckeown – by acclamation

Directors:

Ice Scheduler – Karen Jacques-Irving – by acclamation

Ways and Means – Lori Pancel - by acclamation

Equipment – Stewart Shonfield - by acclamation

Initiation Program – Vacant

Novice Convener – Erich Neumann - by acclamation

Atom Convener – Tammy Lynch - by acclamation

PeeWee Convener – Monique Hayes - by acclamation

Bantam Convener – Paul Marquis – Majority Vote

Midget Convener – Cathy Parent - by acclamation

Juvenile Convener – Vacant

Rep B Convener – Randy Arnott - by acclamation

Cathy Parent moves to accept the candidates, seconded by Sean Murray all are in favor passed unanimous. Motion Carried

New Business:

No New Business

Motion to adjourn – Motion Carried