



**Baseball Nova Scotia**  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2013

Executive present: Jody Frowley, Barry Gillis, Dave Perry, Shelley Bibby, Mike Curry, Andrew Downs, Josh MacInnis, Brandon Guenette & Holly LaPierre (Special Events).

Other Director's present: Robert Noseworthy, Kevin Richardson, Joe Hickee, Allan MacDonald, Everett MacPherson, Chris Zink & Joel Rodgers.

Jody called the AGM to order @ 2pm & asked voting credentials be closed @ 2:15 pm. Barry Gillis second & all agreed.

Jody asked for approval of the AGM agenda – election of officers & financials to be included. Andrew Downs second & all approved.

Jody asked for the Semi-Annual minutes with one small correction (Shelley is from West Hants not East Hants) to be accepted. Chris Zink second & all accepted.

### Reports

Jody mentioned written reports from the President, Executive Director, Supervisor of Umpires, Registrar & Regional Director's were included in the handout. Jody quickly highlighted the following:

1. Elimination of R Provincials.
2. Qualifier tournaments & the Bluenose League.
3. Teething problems caused by our By-Laws.
4. The Baseball Canada Convention.
5. Improvements required.

Jody encouraged all to read @ a later date.

Jody thanked Holly LaPierre for organizing the Baseball Canada Convention & awards night – Holly got a standing applause. Also, he thanked Josh MacInnis for increasing the number of coaches training clinics.

Jody mentioned Andrew Downs was named by Baseball Canada as Umpire of the year & Chris Hatchard is coach of the year.

Brandon indicated the changes to the Bluenose League, Provincials & the new web site helped. He agreed with Jody much still needs to be improved on.

Jody indicated voting credentials were now closed & asked if anyone had questions about the reports.

Jim Melanson from Spring Hill asked about the feasibility of Umpires & coaches learning each others roles and other cooperative efforts to increase awareness, perspective and respect amount participants. Jody felt it was best left to the Umpires group to respond.

Barry Anderson asked if Baseball Canada was going to outlaw composite bats. Brandon said no decision has been made yet on this.

Ross Smith from Humber Park asked if BNS could let them know how many games there would be in the Bluenose League before the season starts. Brandon indicated it was difficult to give an exact number as it depended on the number of teams registered & level of play.

Jody motioned to have all of the reports accepted. Bob Goudey second & all accepted.

#### Financials

Dave Perry indicated BNS has approx. \$30,000 cash & \$35,000 in receivable @ the end of September. There are still bills to be paid, but estimated we should finish the year with approx. \$15,000 - \$17,000 cash. Dave indicated he used 2012 actual as his 2013 budget number & reviewed a number of line variances.

Barry Anderson asked why Accounts Payable line was blank. Dave indicated it was note on a line above.

Dave then motioned for acceptance. Joel Rodgers second & all accepted.

#### Bluenose League/Provincials

Brandon indicated changes to the Bluenose League enabled teams to play more games, focus on development & the new format fits in better with Long-term Athletic Development (LTAD). This is important as it help win points for our funding.

Bob Goudey from WPW wanted to know if there were any travel issues. Brandon said there was a few cases, but much improved.

Fred Campbell from Dartmouth indicated teams just wouldn't play. Jody said you are always free to play other teams instead.

Aaron Sweeney from Yarmouth asked if we could ban teams from Provincials if they didn't play in the Bluenose League. Jody said no because our By-Laws prevent us from doing so. As a member you are entitled to enter into Provincials.

Brandon is aware of the complaints regarding Provincials, but feels only small changes are needed to improve. Over all Provincials were better, teams seemed even & Bluenose results help with evaluations. Jody feels work is still needed to determine the number of teams advancing to Provincials.

Jim Malanson questioned the use of Pitch Counts for B Provincials. Jody indicated Pitch Counts are here to stay for all BNS leagues & tournaments. Most agreed.

Dennis Woodworth would like to see all players bat & eliminate bat 9 plays 9. Barry Gillis indicated Baseball Canada is considering this.

Aaron Sweeney asked if Provincial schedules could be issued sooner. Brandon said he would try, but sometimes there are delays outside of BNS control.

Jim Melanson asked how non-Bluenose teams are evaluated for Provincials. Jody indicated all teams are treated the same, but non-Bluenose teams need to prove their level of play to BNS.

Louis Aube from Dartmouth asked about surprise payments for Provincials. Jody admitted there are rules, but sometime things are not communicated very well. It's an area needing improvement.

Dennis Woodworth asked for standards for Provincial tournaments. Barry Gillis suggested a checklist. Jody said more work & better communication is needed in this area.

Ross Smith asked if there is a standard amount given to those hosting Provincials. Brandon said the amount given is dependent on the level & number of teams.

### High Performance

Brandon hopes to soon have a funding policy for teams travelling outside of the province.

The new Canada Games model seemed to be well received (see Brandon's report). The negatives are more travel for some, weaker Midget AAA league & shorter season for some. However, the positives were less arm injuries reported, players exposed to top level coaching, AA players given the chance to play Midget AAA & Canada Games team having better focus.

Ross Smith asked how the Canada Games team performed. Jody said they only finished 8<sup>th</sup>, but this team was weaker & felt structure wasn't to blame.

Louis Aube feels more parental supervision might be needed – especially off the field. Dennis Woodworth suggested player background checks, but Jody said checking player's background just isn't possible.

Jody suggested a strategic alignment between Bantam Selects & the Canada Games team.

Pat Westhaver from Dartmouth asked why the Canada Games Model couldn't be used for the Bantam Selects. Jody said the issue should be discussed further. Kevin Richardson & others agreed it needs to be discussed further.

Bob Goudey congratulated Dennis, Kevin & Pat for their coaching efforts with the Bantam Selects. All agreed they did an excellent job.

Brandon indicated the search for high performance coaches has begun. The senior women's team will be decided first as the 2014 tournament is in BC.

### Coaching

Josh MacInnis is planning more coaching clinics earlier. They will be communicated earlier – he has a coaching list. Josh is working on a super coaching clinic in March.

Dennis Woodworth asked if we could alter the coaching clinics, but Josh said these are developed by Baseball Canada & the training cannot be changed.

### By-Law Changes & On-line registration

A review on BNS operations indicates we are under funded under staffed & have issues with communications (see SMU report). Also, the current BNS model is believed to be unsustainable.

As a result, Jody is recommending the following changes to our By-Laws:

1. Remove the operation rules from our By-laws.
2. Reduce the board number from 18 to 12.
3. Introduce 3 new VP positions – Operations, Discipline & Finance.

Brandon indicated more detailed registration information is needed to apply for funding & suggests an on-line registration system. Also, he's asking for another full time staffer to assist. This will cost more, but is needed.

Jody indicated 1 full time staffer just cannot respond effectively to our approx. 8,500 members. As a result, Jody has asked Barry Anderson to look into By-Law changes & for Brandon to investigate the added cost of on-line registration. All agreed.

Ross Smith asked if there would be an increase in the 2014 registration fee. Jody said no, but couldn't guarantee it wouldn't increase in 2015.

#### BNS Elections

The following were voted as the 2014 BNS executive:

Jody Frowley – President  
Barry Gillis – VP  
Dave Perry – Treasure  
Shelley Bibby – Registrar  
Mike Curry – Secretary  
Josh MacInnis – Supervisor of Coaches  
Andrew Downs – Supervisor of Umpires

The AGM was adjourned @ 4:30 pm.