



Baseball Nova Scotia
Semi-Annual Meeting
April 27, 2014 - Kentville, NS

Executive present: Barry Gillis, Dave Perry, Shelley Bibby, Mike Curry, Neil Gaskell & Brandon Guenette.

Other board members present: Joel Rodgers, Everett McPherson, Roger Noseworthy, Roddy Conrad, Chris Zinck, Allan MacDonald & Chris Hatcher.

The meeting was called to order @ 1:15 pm.

Barry Gillis **announced Jody Frowley** has stepped down & according to our By-Laws he would be taking the position of President & become one of the signing officers for Baseball Nova Scotia.

Barry asked for a **moment of silence** for members who have recently passed away.

Barry asked for **approval of the Semi-Annual meeting agenda**. Allan MacPherson motioned to accept the agenda as is & Joel Rodgers seconded. All approved.

Barry asked for **approval of the 2013 AGM minutes** as posted on the BNS web page. Dave Perry motioned for acceptance & Barry Anderson seconded. All accepted without change.

Barry asked if there were any unresolved items – none were tabled.

Dave Perry presented a **financial review of 2013** operations. Dave is pleased with the financial picture & highlighted the following:

1. Some prepaid expenses.
2. Accounts payable.
3. Reduced board expenses.
4. Canada Games grant difference.
5. The cost for hosting the Baseball Canada National meeting.

As a result, Brandon indicated BNS membership fees would remain the same for 2014, but couldn't guarantee them for 2015.

Dennis Woodworth (Bridgewater) asked if our financials were audited by an outside party. Mike responded they were not due to the high cost. Barry Anderson indicated they can be reviewed by Sport NS for a fee. Barry Gillis will look into this service & the cost.

Dennis Woodworth motioned for Dave's report to be accepted & Brian Secord (Eastern Passage) seconded. All accepted.

Dave next proposed the **2014 Operations budget**. Dave feels 2014 revenues & expenses should be similar as 2013 with the exception of the year-end-banquet. The following items (when amounts are available) will now be included:

1. Canada games funding/expense.
2. Women's team funding/expenses.
3. Web site & registration expenses.

Barry Anderson asked about funding for Provincial teams travelling outside of Province. Brandon indicated this would be outlined later in the meeting in the funding grid.

Chris Zinck motioned to accept the budget & Joel Rodgers seconded it. All accepted.

Brandon proposed the following **Rule changes for 2014:**

1. There will be an open selection process for Peewee Nationals. However, the team will not operate like a BNS program & the team will only be selected in July.
2. Youth Selects will play a full schedule in the Junior League.
3. A courtesy runner for player with pre-announced health conditions.
4. A courtesy runner will be permitted for catchers after 2 outs for A & AA Minor teams during regular league play.
5. The mercy rule will be amended - 20 runs after the 3 rd, 15 after 4 & 10 after 5.

Mike King (Hantsport) wanted to make sure the proposed catcher rule would not be imposed on Intermediate & senior teams.

Neil Gaskell motioned for acceptance Barry Anderson seconded. All agreed.

Brandon & Shelly outlined the new online **Registration System**. This system should be easy to use, provide BNS with a better membership list, improve communications & greatly improve membership fee collection. Chris Lerette is to be hired to assist members & Shelly is planning to send out membership list from 2013.

Barry Anderson asked if it would still be possible to register players for Provincials after the registration deadline. Barry Gillis said yes, but it would have to be a case-by-case basis.

Brian Secord asked if non-Bluenose League teams could still register for Provincials. Barry Gillis said yes, but they would need to be registered before the deadline.

Also, Shelley asked if all payments to BNS be directed to the BNS office.

All agreed.

Brandon presented a **funding grid** to assist teams travelling outside of the Province. Barry Gillis wanted to increase funding further for some teams with extremely high travel costs, but is unsure how to do it. Brandon will revise & have it ready before the next AGM.

Brandon outlined the status of the following **developmental programs:**

1. Rally Cap
2. My First Pitch
3. Grand Slam
4. Challenger Program

Randy Crouse announced that Good Life Fitness gave a \$37,000 grant to help support the Challenger program in his area. Mike Curry mentioned the program would be highlighted during the 21U Baseball Canada tournament in Dartmouth this summer.

Brandon plans to have a **Provincial checklist** ready in approx 3-4 weeks.

Barry Gillis opened the floor to general **questions**:

Brian Secord asked if there would be additional coaching clinics. Neil Gaskell said he's planning to have some in June/July, but hasn't firmed up dates yet.

Dennis Woodworth asked about the Pee Wee National team. Brandon indicated the board decided it wasn't going to operate like a BNS program, but a stand alone team. Coaches would be selected & team tryouts wouldn't happen until July.

Judy Filshie (Woodlawn) asked if BNS asks associations for financials/criminal record checks or could impose courses like Speak Out. Mike Curry said BNS doesn't & prefers not to get involved in associations affairs.

Judy & Brian Secord asked if BNS could monitor all pitch counts. Neil Gaskell indicated it couldn't be enforced for league games. Brandon indicated BNS does monitor tournament games (i.e. Provincials).

Dennis asked if BNS could improve on how it deals with disciplinary issues. Barry Gillis indicated a new disciplinary committee has been approved & would soon be created. Barry wouldn't be on it, but would hear appeals.

Barry Anderson will have recommendations for change to our By-Laws prior to the fall AGM.

Joel Rodgers motioned for the meeting to be **adjourned @ 3:30 pm**. Rodger Noseworthy seconded & all agreed.