

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Baseball Nova Scotia
Best Western Hotel Dartmouth, NS
Saturday October 25, 2014**

Present: Barry Gillis, President
Brandon Guenette, Executive Director
Shelley Bibby, Registrar
Mike Curry, Vice President
Shelley Clee, Secretary
Neil Gaskell, Supervisor of Coaches
Andrew Downs, Supervisor of Umpires
Joel Rodgers, BNSUD

Regrets: Dave Perry, Treasurer

Quorum: Quorum was met.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by President, Barry Gillis.

Barry Gillis asked for a Moment of Silence for all those lost in the baseball community this past year, as well as the loss of Nathan Cirillo and Patrice Vincent to recent acts of violence.

President confirmed that all members in attendance received copy of documents circulated for meeting, which included: AGM Agenda, Semi Annual Meeting Minutes, President's and Executive Director's Reports, Supervisors' Reports, Regional Directors' Reports, Registrar's Report, Financial Statement, Discussion Group Recommendations and Membership Fee Review Document.

Barry announced at 3:17 pm that Voting Credentials Registration was now closed.

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Louis Aube. Seconded by Al MacDonald. Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes of Semi Annual Meeting was made by Ken Lenihan and seconded by Chris Zinck. Motion carried.

Dennis Woodworth raised a concern from the previous meeting with respect to his earlier question of whether the finances of Baseball Nova Scotia could be audited. Brandon responded by advising Dennis that he'd had a conversation with Sports Nova Scotia. They would look at the books for a fee. At this time we are uncertain as to what that fee would be but could be in the thousands of dollars, and that hadn't been budgeted for in this fiscal year. Dennis expressed a concern that over the last 60 months there have been discrepancies in the reported numbers. Brandon explained that some of this is due to monies outstanding and assured the members that at the earlier BOD meeting, it had been noted that we will ask the Treasurer to include a line item

for bad debts and/or outstanding monies to be included in future reports.

Barry Anderson indicated that members had the right to motion for audits. I reminded everyone that audits (even 3rd party reviews) could be expensive. Dennis was asked if he wanted to make such a motion, but he declined.

Executive Reports

Executive Reports were tabled. Barry asked members to take the time to review the reports. Barry also suggested that if there were any questions in follow up to the reports to feel free to email him directly and he would look into any concerns and get back to them asap.

Barry reported that we now have a more accurate membership list thanks to Shelley Bibby and Brandon Guenette, with a new system that they've put into place.

Lou Aube asked if expenses noted in the treasurer's report was a reflection of the full year. It was for the 6 month period ending September 2014.

Question from the floor, "what is the Umpire Grant". That amount comes from Baseball Canada as an operating grant.

Motion to accept Executive and Financial Report made by Dennis Woodworth and seconded by Roddy Conrad. Motion carried.

Regional Directors Reports

Regional Directors Reports were tabled. Barry noted that if anyone had any questions pertaining to any comments within the reports to please get in touch with him and he would research and get back to them asap.

Motion to accept Regional Directors Reports was not made.

Discussion Group Recommendations

Brandon Guenette introduced the subject of the Discussion Group. This was a group of baseball representatives from around the province brought together to get different perspectives on topics that always seem to be of concern to members throughout the year. The point of this group was to try to develop a list of recommendations for things that can be improved upon. They moved to come up with a list of concerns and ways to address the concerns in a constructive manner that would be good for all regions.

Several items from the Discussion Group recommendations were deferred to January for further study. Other areas of concern would be voted on at today's AGM for planning purposes.

Brandon and Barry encouraged that members read and review this document. Barry noted that these are not written in stone, rather they are recommendations at this time.

Ken Lenihan asked about the \$300 entry fee into Provincials. It was clarified that this had been vetoed at the earlier BOD meeting, and clarified that the values would be as follows:

\$150 for Bluenose League teams
\$200 for Non Bluenose league teams

This provides an incentive to those non Bluenose league teams to register in Bluenose and therefore would provide more teams in the provincial league. We will start to use this format in the 2015 season. Lou Aube suggested we should target non Bluenose teams with a \$300 entry fee. He did not feel this was out of the ordinary to do and that we should reconsider raising it to \$300. Ken Lenihan agreed. Brandon noted that they would review this fee.

Question from the floor: Who was involved in the discussion group? Brandon responded with the following names: Joel Rodgers, Everett MacPherson, Scott Surette, Jeff Pierce, Mike Crawford, Eric Fraser, Brian Secord, Barry Gillis and Brandon Guenette.

Brandon explained why they were chosen and how the group worked together to come up with the consensus of recommendations.

From out of this discussion, Dennis Woodworth noted that he would like to see an opportunity for Presidents and Regional Directors to get together in a “roundtable weekend” format to build the sport, from the grassroots perspective. He feels we should ask associations if they are interested in a weekend retreat to do this. It was expressed by the Executive that this would be a very expensive venture. Dennis suggested the associations pay for it. Brandon also noted that this is part of the role of the Regional Director. Everett MacPherson noted this would be done better via the AGM, and that members should make a stronger effort to attend the meeting. It was suggested that at the AGM there could be breakout sessions to discuss these matters.

Bluenose League

Brandon reviewed what was in this section. He suggested that if anyone had any comments or suggestions that it could be fed back through the Regional Directors.

Dennis Woodworth asked what software we use for scheduling. Brandon advised that they do everything manually. Brandon noted that they’d tried software in the past and did not have a good experience. Fred Campbell suggested that we look into Goal Line. This is the program used by Hockey and Soccer Nova Scotia and that it is an easy to use system. Brandon noted

they'd looked into Goal Line in the past and it was very expensive as an umbrella user. Dennis suggested that the associations pay more to help pay for Goal Line. Brandon assured members that there are quirks to overcome, and that will alleviate the problem of cancellations and triple headers especially as it relates to the travel issue. Brandon will continue to work on this.

Brandon talked about the advisory and deadline for tournament notification. This will be good for planning and scheduling.

Barry raised the importance of participation in Classification and Baseball Day.

Question from the floor regarding the issues that rescheduling games causes. Barry addressed this and noted it happens every year. Ken Lenihan suggested going the route of securing performance bonds at the beginning of the season for last minute cancellations. Several members felt this was a good idea. Barry addressed noting we get it from both ends and that it's hard to enforce. Brandon to check with other provinces to see what they do.

Fred Campbell asked about the structure of the tryout week, perhaps starting earlier and finishing earlier, the 2nd week of August. But Brandon noted how that is difficult, with turnaround time, weather issues, travel, etc.

Barry discussed the issue of service and how it is difficult to deliver the service that is expected with the current structure. Brandon is doing the work of 2 people. Barry suggested people talk to the person who can offer the best answer which is not always Brandon. Mike Curry suggested that the number of hours that Brandon is working is a problem, and that he needs help. While we have new registration system, it's still not enough to alleviate the workload that is being carried by one person.

Dennis Woodworth, who, owning 4 companies, suggested that he is sympathetic, but felt through the in-season, Brandon should be able to look after the needs of BNS and its members better. Reaffirmed we need a diagram outlining the hierarchy of calls and inquiries for members. Ken Lenihan noted that it's important for members to educate themselves and think about the kind of question they are calling about and whether they can redirect to someone else.

Dennis wanted to know why Brandon left in August to coach the girls teams @ Nationals. He felt Brandon shouldn't leave during the ball season & if he had to that he should use vacation time. I reminded all that Josh McInnis was supposed to coach these teams & Brandon had to go as we didn't have anyone else volunteering.

Ken Lenihan asked the question whether a staff member should be allowed to coach a team.

Scott Hagan congratulated Brandon for stepping forward to coach the girls team when nobody else did. Lou Aube echoed that comment.

High Performance

It was agreed in the BOD meeting that we allow the status quo with 2 caveats. A) that the team be chosen by March 31st and B) that the over-agers are just to be pick-ups only for the Youth Select Team for the Canada Cup.

Dennis Woodworth noted that 5 members of his team made the Youth Selects team, and feels this is a detriment to his team. Dennis expressed concern about long term development and having players having to choose one team over another. He feels that is very unfair. Ken Lenihan spoke and addressed this issue and shared his own experience of this own team and responded to the concerns, suggesting that this is what baseball is all about, about following your dreams, and that at this level they should be able to make that decision for themselves. Dennis is concerned about how to explain this to his team.

Andrew Downs interjected with a motion to extend the High Performance program. Louis Aube seconded. Motion carried. For: 15; Opposed; 3

Bylaws Update

Changes in the not for profit rules would dictate changes in our own bylaws. Jody revised and sent our bylaws to a lawyer. Barry has the revisions at home. Brandon has since sent them to an expert with Health and Wellness. Brandon is waiting for his response. Will likely undergo bylaw changes, to be approved this time next year.

Membership Fee Increase

Members were informed at the 2013 AGM and at the 2014 Semi AGM that a membership fee increase would be presented at the 2014 AGM. Brandon introduced the review and how they came to the recommendation to increase member fees. Currently our revenue is not carrying our expenses, and over the next 5 years we will see a reduction in our government funding. Barry explained the needs, and justified the increase. There wasn't any opposition to the increase. Ken Lenihan noted that the increase won't go very far. There was a concern expressed about how the process came about, and felt that there wasn't transparency in how this discussion was carried out and that perhaps in future years should be on the agenda. Both Barry and Brandon spoke to this issue and noted that it's a BOD/Executive discussion, which then filters down to the membership. This is why it was included in the reports.

Dennis Woodworth asked about the Tim Hortons sponsorships. Brandon explained that you have to go through the local channels to secure any funding. Dennis asked what sponsorships we do have. The answer was none at this time.

Ken asked about tiered rates. Brandon offered that it could be done that way but our needs are such right now that the \$10 increase is a necessity. BNS hasn't had a membership fee increase in

over 10 years. A couple of comments from the floor asking if \$10 would be enough and that perhaps it should be more.

Andrew Downs made a motion to accept the membership fee increase effective 2015. Joel Rodgers seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Barry Anderson presided over the Election of Officers.

The following Election of Officers:

President: Barry Gillis - Declared. No other nominations. Elected

VP: Mike Curry – Declared. No other nominations. Elected

Treasurer: Dave Perry – Declared. No other nominations. Elected

Secretary: Shelley Clee – Declared. No other nominations. Elected

Supervisor of Coaches: Neil Gaskell – Declared. No other nominations. Elected

Registrar: Shelley Bibby – Declared. No other nominations. Elected

Supervisor of Upmires: Andrew Downs – Declared. No other nominations. Elected

The terms of officers is defined in the By-Laws.

Motion to Adjourn by Andrew Downs. Seconded by Joel Rodgers. Motion carried.