

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Of Baseball Nova Scotia
Sunday October 25, 2015**

In Attendance: (Board) Barry Gillis, Mike Curry, Brandon Guenette, Shelley Clee, Dave Perry, Shelley Bibby, Neil Gaskell, Andrew Downs, Joel Rodgers

Barry Gillis called the AGM to Order at 2:09 pm.

Announcements: Moment of silence was carried out in memory of all those who have passed, in the baseball community, in 2015.

Changes/Addition to Agenda: It was requested that there be a discussion regarding House league.

Approval of Agenda: Joel Rodgers moved the approval of the meeting agenda. Seconded by Dave Perry. Motion carried.

New Business: No New Business arising

Executive Committee Reports

President and Regional Directors reports were submitted at the AGM and members were invited to read at a later time.

Treasurer's Report: Financial statement was distributed. Dave Perry reviewed the financial statement to end of September 30, 2015 and noted that the account is in good shape. He also noted the following:

- a) The OH grant – the difference is in the provincial grant.
- b) National hosting – was budgeted but will not be utilized
- c) Salaries – the amount noted include salaries spent in 2nd half.
- d) Year end banquet had not as yet been spent at the time the financial statement was finalized.
- e) Grassroots – did not happen in this fiscal year

Barry Anderson asked about size of budget. Dave confirmed it is just shy of \$300,000.

Dave moved the adoption of the financial statement. Seconded by _____. Motion carried.

No other Executive Reports. Allan MacDonald moved to accept the reports. Joel Rodgers seconded. Motion carried.

Ken Eisener (LWF) noted a regional report location revision.

Challenger Baseball:

Randy Crouse submitted a proposal requesting Baseball Nova Scotia's support of the Challenger Baseball program by way of a financial contribution to send Nova Scotia athletes to camp. It was unanimously supported by the Board of Directors that BNS provide up to \$2500 at this time with the option to increase that amount at a later date. It was also unanimously agreed upon to cover the out of pocket expenses for Randy, as a Nova Scotia representative (Coordinator), to attend on behalf of BNS. Randy will develop a financial expense sheet for this program and send to BNS Board of Directors for review. It was also recommended and moved by the board that membership fees for all challenger athletes and non registered buddies be reduced to 50% of its current fee. Moved by Randy. Seconded by Brian Secord. Motion carried.

Bylaw Reform:

All information regarding BNS Bylaws was taken to the lawyer representing BNS. BNS has received a draft version back but is currently not ready for approval. As there are areas that require different approaches for approval, BNS may be required to call a "Special Meeting" to present the new bylaws to the membership. The new bylaws would include a change in the Structure of the Board. It would include: President, VP Operations & Discipline, VP Girls Baseball, Treasurer, Secretary, and the regions would be modeled after NSSAF. Once the lawyer has completed his final draft, a special meeting may be called, or other communication will be used, based on the advice of the lawyer. The Registrar's role will be excluded based on this draft, and the Regional Directors will not be voting members.

Barry Anderson asked if it would be required for a committee to be struck to review the bylaws before a special meeting was called. Barry explained that this is what the Board has carried out, and added components that were needed to address any outstanding issues.

Sean Whitford (LWF) asked if the bylaws are to be voted on at an AGM or Special Meeting. Bylaws are typically voted on at a special meeting. If it is a change to a bylaw, that change can be voted on at an AGM. We will await further instruction from the lawyers.

Technical Director:

Brandon reported that BNS has received a grant for \$35,000 from Sport Nova Scotia, toward the salary for a Technical Director. Baseball Nova Scotia has budgeted for a top-up to the salary to bring into line for similar roles in other regions. A job description was created and sent to various advertising venues across Canada. Four (4) candidates were identified and will be interviewed by Barry Gillis, Neil Gaskell and Mark Smith of Sport Nova Scotia. The position will begin January 4th. The role will include coaching, maintenance of NCCP, development programs, Rally Cap, Winter Training, and will be strongly involved in High Performance development.

Bill Hepditch (LWF) asked what the salary is for the role. The salary is approximately \$50,000 depending on experience. The role will also help with communication and processes.

Lou Aube (Dartmouth) asked about the longevity of the grants, and whether BNS could support this role without the grant. The grant is a three year revolving grant, and Brandon suggested that it would be a difficult role to support without the grant. It would be extremely tight.

Karen Ouellette commented that many organizations have technical directors and it has made a difference in the programming and that all members should support the hiring of a TD.

Dennis Woodworth (Bridgewater) asked who would be on the hiring committee. Brandon responded with the names of Mark Smith from Sport Nova Scotia, himself, and Neil Gaskell.

Ken Eisener (LWF) asked if there were any candidates that stood out to fit the criteria? Brandon responded that all 4 will bring skills and strengths to the table and that each had experience that would lend to the role, very well. Ken also asked who would be supervising this individual. Brandon will be the immediate supervisor, followed by instruction from the Board.

Fred Campbell (Dartmouth) asked if the Technical Director would serve on the Board of Directors. Brandon responded “no”. This individual will be an employee of the organization and will not sit on the board.

Seven Team Format:

Brandon introduced a proposal from Sean Whitford (LWF) regarding the 7 team format. Brandon deferred to Sean to explain what they were recommending. The proposal is lengthy and a copy can be obtained from Baseball Nova Scotia. Ideas contained in the proposal are not outside of some discussions that have been had in the past.

Brandon was first to speak to the proposal outlining the research he and the staff have carried out to investigate options. Firstly, hosting more tournaments would be difficult. It can be difficult now to find sufficient tournament hosts, as well as available umpires. This proposal would include an increase in the number of qualifying tournaments. Brandon also spoke to the “double knock out” as an option that has been discussed in the past, as well.

Mike Crawford suggested reviewing qualifying tournament processes and move the date of these tournaments. The difficulty with that, according to Blaine Gallant, is that tournaments cannot be as early as June. They have to be held later in the season.

Brandon and Barry (Gillis) suggested a better way of tracking tournaments so they (teams) can be assessed more effectively.

Dennis Woodworth (Bridgewater) asked if that’s what Brandon does, assess a team for numbers and experiences. Brandon responded that this is part of his role, in conjunction with the regional directors feedback as they are the ones on the fields.

Brandon discussed development versus play to win. Part of the mandate of BNS is development. Changing that would change its mandate. He reminded everyone that we have to keep development in mind and not focus solely on the play to win philosophy.

Dennis Woodworth (Bridgewater) asked how we determine a winner when not all teams have the same number of games.

Barry Gillis raised the issue of a 12 member roster becoming 9.

Roddy Conrad noted that classification is really important, and that we've perfected classification over the last several years and how far we have come to find processes that work and that we should give these processes time and fine tune as we go. This was supported by several in the room.

Ken (LWF) raised a concern about teams that work hard versus teams that get put into the mix in the last days leading up to tournaments/championships and how that should not be part of the philosophy of BNS development and therefore not supported by BNS.

Mike Curry explained that we do look at all tournaments. We expect them to submit scores. He explained that we still take struggling teams into consideration. But that there are always exceptions to the rule. Some teams do slip by our radar.

Ken Eisener (LWF) reiterated the point about all teams that do not play all year should not be part of the consideration.

Barry Gillis interjected that if we have a team that we don't have enough information about, we don't classify until we have more information. We expect the Regional Directors to feed into the decision.

Barry Anderson suggested after a lengthy discussion that we defer to spring 2016.

Brandon agreed that we move this discussion to 2016, with a committee to look at this topic as there are many varying opinions and opportunities to investigate.

Barry Gillis also reminded everyone that we do have a handbook and that we do try to cover everything. There needs to be some flexibility and reminded us that membership should have the right to appeal decisions.

Fred Campbell (Dartmouth) suggested that instead of a 7 game format, that we simply give all teams 4 games.

Motion: A committee be struck in 2016 to review current standards and procedures of qualifying tournaments and classifications and present findings to Board of Directors. Committee to be chaired by interested parties made up of at least 5 members including regional representation, and chaired by Sean Whitford or other individual as agreed upon by the Committee.

Everett MacPherson (Valley) noted that there may be other options or solutions that respond to the same concerns and that we need to cover a broad perspective of options. Dennis W noted that our goal should be to include all 5 regions in this committee. This was covered in the motion.

One opposed (Fred Campbell). Motion carried.

Provincials/Bluenose League:

Blaine Gallant (Umpires) raised the issue of time limit on games for Recreational Baseball. He asked BNS to review and to consult with recreational leagues. Barry responded that we cannot mandate because recreational baseball is outside of BNS rules.

Sean Whitford (LWF) states they have had time limits on games in the past and there was a mixed review. Many coaches did not like the limit.

Everett MacPherson (Valley) suggested that in lieu they start with a 1-1 count.

Election of Officers: Joel Rodgers ran the Election of Officers. Barry Gillis is in the second of a two year role as President. All Board Members have returned for an additional year.

Congratulations to Barry Gillis, Mike Curry, Dave Perry, Neil Gaskell, Shelley Bibby, Shelley Clee, Andrew Downs. Barry gave thanks to the Board and to the membership for their support.

Dennis Woodworth (Bridgewater) expressed concern about issue of 17U mandated National team. As a result of this, he and other areas, especially those in rural areas, may not be able to field a Bluenose team.

Lou Aube (Dartmouth) asked if there wasn't enough kids in other areas to feed into Bridgewater. There was a discussion between Dennis and Neil about building a sustainable model to ensure there are enough kids to form teams in every area.

Brian Secord noted it's better for elite athletes to play elite baseball, and vice versa. Dennis suggested we look to other provincial models. Neil suggested that Dennis could review the High Performance Committee's review of National Teams.

Motion to adjourn: Blaine Gallant. Seconded by Mike Curry. Motion carried.