

Burlington Women's Fastball League
2011 Annual General Meeting
September 25, 2011
Slye Fox

Call to order

Attendance

Jen Yates	Tammy Tomkinson	Christine Kupkee
Veronica Leslie	Laurie Gilmour	Lisa Rutherford
Amy Lancia	Jen Hall	Heather Ireland
Kirsten Beamish	Rochelle Matte	Colleen Hagggar
Kim Penman	Lisa Turbitt	Shawna Dennis

Introduction of the 2011 Executive

2011 Summary – Veronica Leslie

- Congratulations to the 2011 Champions the blue team, JM Edwards for their first place finish in playoffs and the Black Sox, Locals Red team for their first place finish during the regular season.
- Veronica discussed the distribution of teams were fair this season once again.
- Equipment purchased – helmets, shin pads and knee savers
- Promotions – executive attended BASA clinics, sold bracelets, distributed and posted flyers, created a twitter account, posted ads on kijiji and upheld Facebook account.
- This year there were 48 players registered, not as difficult to field 4 teams as it was in previous season.
- Jerseys – always an issue, some members felt the shirt was too short. This was brought up during the previous season the executive advised members that the same shirts would be purchased to maintain continuity as well as had samples available for registrants as warm-up and batting cages.
- Batting Cages – the executive was disappointed with the turn out to the batting cages. The executive rented the cages for an hour with the hopes of attracting a few more players or returning members, but only two non-executive members showed up.
- Warm-up Day and Pitching Clinic – the executive held a warm up day once again in the spring and were please to have john Turbitt lead the drills and two new players were recruited. There was also a pitching clinic held as it was mentioned at previous AGM that it would be beneficial to the league since pitchers are becoming hard to come by. Once again the league was disappointed that only two pitchers were present.
- Umpires – the executive was called to a meeting by Barb Jones (Burlington Umpire Association) with regards to the length of games. The BWFL games were taking over two hours to complete and was a nuisance for the umpires, but at the same time, the permits for the city of Burlington expired at 8 pm, making questioning the liability in the event of an injury. The executive in consultation with Barb Jones introduced the rule of no new inning after 7:45 with a 'drop dead' finish at 8:00 pm.

2011 Treasurer's Report

- Jen Hall presented the financial report for the 2011 season.
- The league is operating at a loss and reiterated that at the 2010 AGM she warned that we needed to increase revenue or the league could be in financial jeopardy. The league will be carrying about \$1,000 into the next season.
- Perhaps the executive would consider an increase in player fees in order to account for the increase in expenses including permits, banking fees, etc.
- Shawna addressed the banking fees, Jen explained the banking fees are the paypal fees and monthly service fees from TD Canada Trust. Paypal accounts for about \$15 per \$130 registration fee.

Old Business

Equipment - at last year's AGM the exec said they would purchase knee savers but we didn't get any. Pitching rubbers, not enough for the league and should be purchased. Bases were pretty ratty and need to be replaced. Knee savers were purchased and were left behind at the equipment pick up day. There were knee savers at Nelson every Sunday if need be. Ten helmets were purchased two teams received three and two teams received two helmets. Bases – also had extra bases if we had known about the issue before now. New helmets were also purchased and divided equally throughout the league. It was mentioned there should be a more formal outlet rather than a 'let us know'.

Only have 3 sponsors? Amy addressed that there were several attempts to recruit new sponsors but kept hitting roadblocks, the recession was mentioned by numerous potential sponsors. She added that we tried several new and repeat sponsors, unfortunately some companies just couldn't do it, and other (ie Cedar Springs) didn't feel it beneficial for them as a business.

Shirts are too short, same complaint about shirts was submitted last year. This is an ongoing issue. Unfortunately with the shirts we will be unable to please everyone. Shirt sizing was noted prior to registration, and sample were also made available. Kim Penman added that it seemed like new players to the league were the complainants this season. Shawna added it's a tireless effort.

Team Reps were not utilized. Amy stated that it was difficult to get all team reps and executive together since there was a lack of people attending Local's after games. Veronica added that after so many years, it should be automatic and assumed the responsibility would remain status quo. Rochelee added that it should have been shared since there are a number of new players to the league rather than a 'you should know'. Amy added that there was a coaches meeting and was mentioned but not all coaches attended. Kirsten mentioned this is the wrong audience, since those in attendance are committed. Kim mentioned that she uses Facebook, texting etc. to communicate with her team. Shawna suggested that prior to the first game on opening day, there is a captive audience and could be addressed then. Rochelle concurred that although we are adults, perhaps we still need all the information presented.

Issues with ump's resulted in: no new inning after rule, drop dead time and open last inning which is very contradictory. We have the City permits from 6pm-8pm on Sunday. Legally we are to drop dead at 8pm no matter what. The no new inning rule is to try and prevent games going past 8pm. In extreme circumstances the open inning is in effect, previously addressed by Veronica. Rochelle mentioned that

the umpires were repeatedly late and did not cover ground rules. Lisa Turbitt mentioned that it makes sense to have one or the other, but not both. Jen Yates added that perhaps it was a hasty decision and Veronica reiterated that for insurance purposes 8pm drop dead was instituted. Lisa Turbitt concurred since she was on the executive during the lawsuit that was brought forth and that reason makes sense. Tammy suggested it be brought to the 2012 executive to decide.

Why have there been no prizes for the past two years for runners up in playoffs? Why do we have a bronze medal game if no prizes awarded for 3rd place finish in playoffs? There are only four teams in the league; we don't have the money to buy prizes without raising registration prices. Perhaps this is a matter next year's exec can look into. Shawna mentioned that this was an issue for the past couple of years. Veronica added that as for the bronze medal game – it's just for fun, and enables all teams to play the same number of games. Lisa Rutherford added that even hats or some small token would be appreciated. Jen Yates mentioned that members on her team did not want to play the bronze game. Veronica commented that there was an abundant supply of door prizes at the banquet.

Why did we stop giving out sponsor plaques? Tammy mentioned that some were not being displayed and due to our financial situation, the cost is not effective. Lisa Rutherford felt that it was not a great expense and should be reconsidered. Kirsten asked about the wine that was once distributed to sponsors, should be added back. Lisa Turbitt added she would add her chiropractor if she felt it would be appreciated; he displays the teams his sponsors in his office.

Sponsor for next season? Tammy and Amy mentioned that ultimately that is the decision of the 2012 executive. Clancy's has come forth as a sponsor and is willing to put \$ up front for the sponsorship. Clancy's will also offer discount to the league should they be the sponsor for next season. QB's was mentioned and Amy rebutted that they are willing to offer meal discounts to the league but not \$ up front for uniforms.

New Business

Veronica asked for any new business from the floor, no new items were mentioned.

Elections

The 2011 Executive resigned and an election was held

The 2012 Executive is as follows:

President – Kim Penman
Vice President – Shawna Dennis
Treasurer – Rochelle Matte
Promotions – Allison McDade
Umpire – Lisa Turbitt
Secretary – Charmaine Brown