



WOOLWICH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INC.

24 Snyder Ave. S. (Elmira Arena), P.O. Box 204, Elmira, ON N3B 2Z6 (519) 669-2789

Annual General Meeting

2007- 2008 Season

April 22, 2008

LOCATION: St. Jacobs Fire Hall

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

CHAIR/PRESIDENT: Jim Radcliffe

SECRETARY: Dana Waters

Present: Don Bauman, Karen Ziegler, Jim Radcliffe, Steve Hanley, Wayne Lamers, Gord Maier, Pat Boucher, Brian Knipfel, Deb Good, Kathy Neeb, Paul Wilson, Dana Waters Val Martin, Mark Fackoury, Brent Bloch, Rick Cressman, 10 interested parents/coaches

Absent: Mike Bender, Eric Brubacher, Chris Bauman

1) President's Welcome

- Jim thanked the parents for coming to attend the meeting and also thanked the Executive for all of their work this year
- Jim noted that a lot was achieved this year
- There weren't as many problems to deal with as in past; hope this continues
- Jim provided an update on the new complex – this past season, we met with Larry Devitt and members of Woolwich Township to discuss WMH's intentions for the new facility
- Jim commented that involvement doesn't just happen when ice is handed over
- This coming year will mean a lot of planning towards new facility
- Jim would like to have additional fundraising, extra sponsors involved – generate new ideas
- Ideally, instead of increase WMH's ice cost, would like to find other initiatives to help offset costs
- There may have to be an increase realized anyway, but will attempt to offset and minimize

2) Minutes of Previous AGM Meeting

- Minutes from April 2007 AGM were distributed
- Jim provided time to review
- Motion to approve 2007 AGM Minutes was made by Pat, 2nd by Kathy; all in favour

a) Business arising from the Minutes

- none

3) Treasurer's Report: Deb Good

- Deb distributed the Financial Statements for Woolwich Minor Hockey Association Inc.
- Deb reviewed the Statement of Financial Position
- Deb reviewed the Statement of Operations, noting it was a good year with some surprise income in some areas
- However, ice rental is up 22%
- Registration income was up 8%, with a lot of younger players
- Sponsorship was up as Pat obtained some new sponsors this year – sponsorship money is accrued over 3 years – as sponsorship lasts for 3 yrs
- Pizza cards – huge fundraiser for WMH - compared to cash calendars – raised \$10,400 compared to \$8,871
- Player development – Elmira Optimist gave \$500
- \$5000 – generous donation from Conestogo Winterbourne Optimists – used for player development
- Woolwich Tournament Weekend - not as profitable this year
- Ice rental for next season – registration rates had to be increased – additional \$25,000 needs to be covered – rep fees not finalized yet
- Equipment – only goalie equipment was purchased this past season
- Clinic costs – clinic for OMHA, food, coffee cost \$3200 – but collected \$2700, so in deficit – reimbursed coaches who took clinics outside 85% reimbursed (\$2600 pd out this year)
- Next year – trying to hold clinics in Woolwich
- Office – had to buy new copier this past year
- Gave \$25,000 donation to Arena fund
- There were no questions for Deb on the Financial Statements

4) Committee Reports:

a) Vice President Representative: Mark Fackoury

- Mark commented that everything went well this year
- Mark thanked coaches, managers and trainers
- Commented that the OMHA president was accessible and fair – helped with interpretation of OMHA rules, etc
- A few issues as an organization – Waterloo's interpretation of AAA – regional players – wanted send player back after 2 months
- WMH didn't want to give Waterloo the ability to send back
- WMH didn't want to set a precedent when coaches pick teams and accept this player
- Jim & Mark clarified – Waterloo coaches now know if pick regional player –player is theirs for the season
- Next year WMH is looking at reclassifying AE teams – this year our AE teams were in tougher AE2 grouping– should be better fit as AE3
- WMH does well as 'A' centre – AE program is developing a lot of kids, but need to look at where fit in that program
- Question – Why do our rep teams play Oakville, Brampton – they are having tryouts now – why do we have to go that far? Commented that AE team doesn't travel as far
- Mark advised that we are an 'A' centre – Fergus/Elora are BB – play with Majors
- Question - Does it go by population?
- Jim advised it is determined partly by population, partly based by registration

- Don commented that it is good that we are classified as an 'A', as it allows us to have both Major and Minor – when go to BB – have Major and Minors together – can end up being all Major players
- By keeping as Major/Minor, it keeps teams more balanced
- Don said by population and registration, we could easily be BB – but not a good thing for player development
- We are in Tri-County so would be in same league
- Jim added that we are at the one end of the region and Tri-County meetings are in Milton
- Mark advised that other teams around us are Alliance teams
- Parent commented that son played HL Select in Waterloo Alliance – heard coaches talking about relaxing of rules – played Kitchener twice
- Mark advised that in Midget, WMH tried with Alliance team 2 year ago - played same team 5/6 times (it was a pilot program) - played with Waterloo, Cambridge, Brantford Alliance teams
- Parent commented that there is talk about 2 teams next year – seems odd – why would we have kids so close that we don't play against in Woolwich?
- Jim advised that K-W is Alliance
- Jim said that WMH tried Midget AE level – didn't go so well, so looking at reclassifying our AE teams
- Mark commented that the Kitchener population is 210,000 – he doesn't understand how they can't have Major and Minor team – had AAA, AA playing MD
- Another Parent commented that there were 5 or 6 Alliance teams in loop this year
- Don commented that in Minor team he looked at – Midget was the only one it was brought to – and OMHA didn't approve of this
- Jim commented that he would rather drive to Oakville and be competitive then play in Waterloo and lose big
- Comment - the AE team in Oakville has a lot more kids trying out – have to try out for HL – don't have enough ice time
- Jim added that the biggest problem is Midget – AAA starts to play MD when get to high school
- Wayne commented that high school players are not allowed to play high school & rep hockey - Waterloo School board rule
- Result is that they get really high caliber hockey players playing MD hockey level
- Another Parent added that some of those players are getting hockey scholarships
- Jim commented that he is working with Kevin Cassidy to try and fix for next year

b) Vice President Local league: Rick Cressman

- Grand River Local League had an excellent year – 8 out of 15 went on to championship and 7 won
- There were no complaints about travel
- Next year – need to work on Coaches/trainers' certificates – if trainer's card or coach's card is due for renewal– going to need police check at same time – this will ensure it is done every 3 years
- LL teams were made up even
- Thanked Wayne for his work with Midgets
- Rick thanked Don & Val, especially for all of their extra work in playoffs
- Comment - had child in Peewee LL and had great year
- Another Parent commented on 3 team tie (Novice)
- Rick said made teams too even – and noted that there will be conflicts every year

- Steve asked the parent of a Novice LL player– with the travel in the Grand River loop – how did you find the development of the kids? Over the years, the games were delayed to Christmas
- Parent advised that there were no complaints
- Another Parent commented that the players were motivated by games, however there was a big discrepancy in talent – rep cuts to great 6 yr olds
- Another Parent commented that their child was moved up and completely happy with skills development – child happy to come; and during the year, skill level throughout the team became more homogenous
- Another Parent commented that through a competitive point of view – playing different teams outside Woolwich was good
- Parent advised that son played Novice LL – thought organization could have benefited from AE Novice team – son played with a range of kids - from those well developed to other kids that could barely skate - disadvantage for both kids...could have had more competition – don't know if there is opportunity for AE?
- Rick advised that this was brought up at Tri County – new Exec will discuss
- Don advised that WMH doesn't have enough ice or practice time – too hard to fit
- Parent asked if could have reduced from 5 to 4 HL teams
- Mark commented that can't play before noon if rep team
- Don said the year following with more ice – no problem
- Steve said they have looked at this for a long time – as well as looked at Minor Novice rep team – need extra ice times – practices – scrambled to find an extra hour
- Jim asked if there was AE at this level
- Paul commented that there is but some travel
- Rick commented there could be 6 Novice LL teams next year
- Jim said that looking at population of Woolwich – new houses, normally means more young children
- Deb commented that this is a testament to community members that Woolwich needs new complex

c) Vice President Coaching: Steve Hanley

- Steve commented on a busy first year on Executive
- Coaching committee is comprised of – Jim, Steve, Mark, Eric and Rick and they are going through the Coaching Applications in early May and will present at June meeting
- The applications are due at end of month (April) – a lot in now, a lot more coming
- Same coach selection process – will look at qualifications, experience, - if there are a few applications, generally go to non-parent coach for rep teams
- No coach serves more than 2 as head coach; but not guaranteed two years
- Police checks will be pushed – need to be done every 3 years
- Looking at refresh courses and clinics – it would be nice to hold our own – issues for ice time – keep checking web – will post
- Working on new Manager and Coaches Guidelines Booklet – will hand out at beginning of season to every team
- There were some issues this year
- All rep will carry 15 players; Midgets will carry 17
- 2 goalies; 13 skates for all divisions Bantam down – will help promote more AP
- Getting a ton of feedback – good & bad
- Parents have commented that they want the Coaching Selection committee to get out and watch games/ practices

- Steve advised that he had Coaching Applications forms at entrance of meeting room tonight
- In meeting with teams – Steve commented to remember it's about the kids and not about the parents' attitudes about the coach
- 1 out of 33,000 make NHL – our record is better than that – could probably name 20 kids in 20 years – but keep that in mind
- Parent asked if the Manual will be handed out to parents as well
- Parent was advised that the Code of Conduct could be copied and handed out to parents
- Manual will be more for coaches and booking tournaments, and what will be accepted
- Parent commented that Rules about minor hockey should be mandated down by Exec – spell out rules and what they need to go by and follow
- Steve commented that likes picking different coach with different mentality – kids need to learn how to adjust – good experience
- Steve commented there is a need to be more aggressive about parents' attitudes
- Parent commented that at the Parent/Coach meeting – Exec should have handout for parents (about rules)
- Jim commented that WMH is one of the only organizations that has nearly almost all non parent coaches
- If we have non parent coaches – feel that is the most subjective way to coach team – take good pride in having non parent coaches, but parents need to realize this coach will put their own spin on coaching
- Jim feels this is healthy - but if there is a concern –address it at coaching staff level – if then need to, address it to Steve
- Jim commented that all people at this table are volunteers
- Jim advised to also be careful with refs – pick your battles and remember they are volunteers
- Mark commented on issues with parents in stands – not setting good example of themselves - had to tell parents to tone it down or won't be allowed in arena

d) Vice President Player Development: Eric Brubacher – absent

- Eric's handout was distributed and Jim allowed time for parents/exec to read report
- Highlights of past season include:
 - Continued partnership with development with the Elmira Sugar Kings
 - Pre-Season skating program in late August with instructor Matt McGahey of the University of Waterloo and Skills Plus Hockey – had 70 participant over 3 age groups
 - Body Contact Clinic for Minor and Major Atom, Minor & Major Peewee levels (Instructor Brandon Mullholland – The Zone) with 130 participants
 - Goal tending clinic (2) held in September & December with ½ hr sessions with approximately 20 - 25 goalies for each session
 - Sat a.m. Skills Development Clinic – 13 sessions with 30 participants ran in the Fall (Eric Calder – Skills Plus Hockey and coaches from WMHA)
 - Mini and Novice programs very successful again this year
 - All coaches were given CHIP (Canadian Hockey Initiation Program) coaching plans to use for practice sessions
 - WMHA was IP (Initiation Program) certified again this year through an on-paper evaluation by an OMHA Instructor/Mentor and this is recognized by a year plaque for the banner at Elmira
 - Programs again this year were open to the Girl's Minor Hockey upon availability

- Continued use and development of Coaches operational binders of Houseleague and Rep teams highlighting all policies, forms, newsletters, etc – Please return any outstanding binders to the hockey office of myself 669-2667 – Thank you)
 - Continued increased sponsorship from the Conestogo – Winterbourne Optimist Club and from the Elmira Optimist Club to help with the goaltending clinics and body contact clinics, which were again offered at no charge to the participants
 - Jamie Israel from Hometown Hockey Training and Development (HHTD) provided power skating and puck handling for the organizations with new funds from the Conestogo-Winterbourne Optimists
 - For 2008 – 2009 season, would like to repeat above sessions and clinics (with a few changes) while adding:
 - More local WMHA members becoming involved with goaltending instruction
 - Expanding the goaltender clinics to include the older ages (Bantam/Midget)
This should be better accomplished with the additional funds for ice/instructors from the Conestogo-Winterbourne Optimists
 - Additional HHTD programs in the Fall with Jamie Israel
 - Please drop off any suggestions for future programs in the comment box upstairs outside the hockey office or contact Eric directly
 - Thank you to all the volunteer parents and coaches who helped with the many programs we offered this past year – it was greatly appreciated.
- John Petrazino introduced himself as Chairman of the Conestogo-Winterbourne Optimist Club, which made the donation to new facility; advised they try to raise money and give back to community
 - Commented that 2 Elmira teams normally play in tournament – this year didn't happen
 - Last year, the Optimist Club gave \$5000 to Eric for player development – Jamie Israel (HHTD) came way too late – end of year – was supposed to be October
 - John commented it is good to bring in pros to help teach children and coaches – power skating; hockey skills
 - Jim commented he expects problem was trying to fit time in
 - He is not sure where this will go next year – if all of the funds were spent or not?
 - Would like a report or mandate
 - Money donated was also to pay for goalie school and body checking
 - John hopes to resurrect that next year or the year after
 - Jim agreed

e) Ice Scheduler: Don & Chris Bauman

- Don commented that more ice time needed for practice but teams were flexible
- Ran into difficulty scheduling with playoffs – snow days and game changes were challenging, but they did best they could
- Strongly recommended a Manager Meeting be held at the beginning of the year – some teams confused about rules and tournament scheduling – this needs to be addressed at this meeting
- Tri-County meetings – it is important to attend these meetings – no one attended last week - very important as rules and decisions are made – this affects us – need to be there
- Don commented that he and Chris enjoyed working with Exec & coaches over past 6 years, thanked all for their support and wished all the best for next year
- Parent asked – if teams want more ice, could early ice time practices be rotated through the teams so it's not only one team - then could convince parents to get players there

- Don advised that 5 or 6 teams took the early ice times and commented that through his experience, that as far as rotating goes – if not a routine hour, good luck at players making it
- Question – will there be more ice in new complex?
- Jim replied that WMH has committed to a great deal of ice

f) Office Administrator: Val Martin

- Val commented that she made it through her 1st season as Office Administrator
- She has emailed Rick regarding a Clinic
- Val made recommendation that all LL teams have Managers so she has a team contact – advised that she doesn't get the same feedback from Coaches as Managers provide
- Jim thanked Val for a great job this year

g) Registration: Gord Maier

- Gord commented that he was a rookie this year and tried to follow Jim's footsteps
- Gord worked hard to try to move everything to electronic storage
- He has 465 family addresses electronically
- Gord hopes receipting will be done electronically in January
- 540 players were registered last season
- Currently have 138 – 1.5 month to go – a little ahead of last year
- Moved teams around (with age group) – big years – 1995, 1996, 2001
- Had some Tyke move to Novice LL this year – may have to look at that again
- Close to capping some age groups last year – this year will be tighter
- Would like everyone to get registrations in
- WMH is not accepting out of town kids until there is a vacancy for them
- WMH would like to add Juvenile team in preparation for additional ice will have to fill with new complex– not enough registrations in yet – encouraged everyone to advise Juvenile players in community
- Parent asked if an existing out of town player is grandfathered?
- Yes, confirmed - pay out of town fees, but allowed to skate
- Mark commented that a lot of grandfathered out of town players have moved through system
- Gord commented there is a need to define boundaries – OMHA needs to advise their interpretation of Woolwich boundary lines
- Parent question – What is the Juvenile age cap?
- Gord advised 1988 – 1990
- Parent asked how far travel would be?
- Rick advised not certain yet
- Parent asked about Breslau – Gord confirmed - yes in our township
- Steve advised that wherever pay taxes, that's where player should play – but OMHA doesn't go by that
- Gord advised that he is trying to collect email lists – so it's on new registration forms this year – would like to try to improve communication level – save on stamps, trees

h) Referees: Brent Bloch

- Brent commented on the beginning of the season - Referee Shortage and Assigner Crisis - lost 7 Senior officials, no Assigners
- Many new and experienced officials have been recruited to fill the void left by retired officials (12 new officials – all are returning; 5 experienced officials)
- Don Mitchell unexpectedly filled in as Assigner, with help from members

- Procedures for Elections were modified in order to minimize surprises on the evening of the final meeting
- Successful changes noted – have three potential candidates for Assigner and candidates for each position in advance of the final meeting
- Fundraising for Assigner Fees – will hold a raffle next year to raise funds for Assigner fees
- Will be raising association fees by \$10/person across the board
- Will ask recreational leagues to pay an Assigner fee again
- Awarded new scholarship available for EDSS high school students who will be pursuing post secondary educations (EDHRA Officials and WMHA players)
- Scholarship was split and awarded to three winners – Garrett Rank, Shane McTavish and Seth Wasylycia – each received \$175
- Application for the scholarship is available through EDHRA or EDSS Guidance Dept.
- Promotions – several officials have advanced and will be better able to serve WMHA
 - Registered at Level 3: Jamie Neeb, Jason Weber, Bob Denstedt, Clifton Cope
 - Level 4 – Jeremy Weber, Eric Chute
 - Level 5 – Brent Bloch
- Level VI Clinic Participation – Adam Good, Eric Chute and Brent Bloch were asked to participate as linesmen in Level VI Clinic held in Cambridge
- Representation at OHF Championships – were asked to send the following six EDHRA officials to the OHF Championship Tournaments this spring:
 - Novice 'AAA' OHF – Nick Betts
 - Peewee 'AAA' OHF – Adam Good, Jason Weber, Garrett Rank
 - Midget 'AA' OHF – Jeremy Weber, Brent Bloch
- EDHRAA 2007 – 2008 Awards of Distinction:
 - EDHRA Award of Coaching Excellence – Bob Parent & Midget team coaching staff
 - Most Promising Official – Trent Schade
 - Most Improved Official – Shane McTavish
 - Most Dedicated Official – Don Mitchell
 - Most Deserving Official – Murray Martin
- Compared to Waterloo/Kitchener/Cambridge, Woolwich has a good selection of officials here – 3 @ Level 5, a lot of high end qualified refs – we are lucky
- Executive for 2008 – 2009
 - President – Brent Bloch
 - Vice President – Jason Camm
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Jason Weber
 - Directors – Luke Shantz, Jeremy Weber, Eric Chute
 - Director of Supervision – Blake Moggy
 - Assigner – Nick Betts
- Looking forward to another great season next year
- Don commented that Don Mitchell tried to do best, but scheduling got worse as year went on – same people were doing same games – Brent advised that will change, addressing that next year

i) Tournament: Karen Ziegler

- Woolwich Weekend tournament was held Nov 16 – 18 – for Peewee and Bantam rep teams – only had 22 teams in it; normally have 24
- Gave \$5000 that was made to WMH - down a bit from previous year
- Everything went well
- This tournament will be held Nov 14 -16 in 2008

j) Equipment: Paul Wilson

- Equipment & jerseys have been returned and equipment room is full again
- Had successful year in trying to figure out how many uniforms need to replace
- Currently in middle of 3 year term - so LL wearing same quality as rep and AE
- Some jerseys are being retired – trying to grandfather those to LL so they have opportunity to have 2 jerseys in case another center they are playing is wearing same colour
- Goalie equip – trying to match needs to requirements this year – many goalies are purchasing their own stuff
- WMH will assist goalies with equipment needs up till Midget
- New this year - made available older jerseys for tryouts – worked well
- Equip return – huge success to moving to day of banquet
- Need to find similar day for sign-out, as it can drag on for a month
- Have talked to 4 sets of parents about purchasing their children's' goalie equipment that they are outgrowing

k) Photos: Wayne Lamers

- Photos this year were held on Oct 22 for rep and Nov 12 for LL
- They were during the week (evenings) and scheduled to avoid conflicts with games
- Minor improvements were noted this year– colour upgrade to borders; seemed to go well
- Mini 4/5 & Mini 6 – turnout went really smoothly – thanks to coaches and volunteers
- There was a huge increase in number of Mini getting their pictures taken this year
- Distribution of photos went well – out before Christmas
- Wayne is recommending that next year we continue with offsite location until we get complex completed
- New complex will possibly allow opportunity for photos to be completed there

l) Sponsors: Pat Boucher

- On behalf of the players and parents, Pat noted the thanks and appreciation to all WMH sponsors
- This coming season, we need sponsors for 3 rep, and 11 LL
- Pat has sent out letters to expired sponsors to give them an opportunity to renew their sponsorship
- Pat gave them a deadline of the end of April to renew as a courtesy
- Pat mentioned that they are some new companies that have expressed interest
- Looking at other ideas other than jerseys, including rink boards – but we still need approval from Township to proceed with this
- Pat will do research to see what other centres are doing
- John inquired about the cost of sponsoring a team
- Pat advised it is \$1250 for LL; \$2500 for rep (2 sets of jerseys) and it is over a 3 year term

m) Fundraising: Kathy Neeb

- Kathy commented it was a successful year – raised \$6,800 golf, \$10,400 pizza cards
- People had commented that they were happy to see cash calendars discontinued this year

- As per many requests received, the fundraising fee was included with the registration fee this year
- This coming year the golf tournament will be held on September 14 in Ariss Valley – Mark King has again offered to help organize and run with the assistance of the Fundraising committee
- Kathy thanked everyone and mentioned that she has enjoyed her time on Executive

n) Webmaster: Brian Knipfel

- Brian is working on freshening up the website
- He is receiving assistance from a Technical Writer to help reorganize website
- Brian referred to the new registration form which is asking permission to post players' photos
- Brian advised this will allow Team photos to go on team pages
- Brian would also like to post team success stories
- Deb advised that she received 600 pictures for the Hockey Banquet slide show – testament that parents like to see photos
- Brian is recommending 1 pg per team – will link to team schedule, picture of team, first name, last initial (not in order of photo)
- It will be a 'One stop shop' for each team – could add tourney info
- Brian is also working on a 'Community Calendar' – which will show fundraising activities; photo schedule, etc – will allow you to go online to see what's going on
- Hope to be ready to go in July
- Parent question – in order to promote players – in mid October could WMH have someone contact local OHL teams about our Woolwich team to send scout to look at Bantam age players?
- Mr. Gilroy would come and look; maybe Pete Deboer would come?
- Jim advised Eric could look at for player development

5) Election of 2008 – 2009 Executive

- One Executive member is stepping down – Kathy Neeb (Fundraising)
- Chris & Don are stepping down as Ice Schedulers
- Jim thanked them for their hard work – they more than pulled their weight and will be missed – hard to replace – next year another growth year
- It was formally noted they have stepped down from Executive
- Jim commented that he would like to put more fundraising initiatives in place – try to add 2 or 3 positions
- Jim would also like to add sponsorship committee – offer sponsor packages - add one more to that role
- Would like to add additional tournament role- would like a tournament at every age group as we go into new arena – need to evolve - would like to add another person to tournament committee to start to head up and get prepared for 09 season
- Lisa MacDonald offered to help with sponsorship
- Karen Pogue, Tammy McBay, Christine Weigel offered to form Fundraising Committee Jim commented that in the past, we had Chair for Committee – would like to have as neutral position, and then have at least one representative from the committee at each Exec Meeting
- Jim mentioned that Woolwich was the host team for the Silver Stick Midget AE – Pat ran, although it was held in Wellesley this past year
- Mark commented that they are opportunities for other AE tourneys over March break, and Christmas (Novice)

- Mark nominated Steve Hartman – support coaching level
- Steve agreed to help out Karen with tournaments or wherever assistance is needed
- Jim accepted the new applications to the Executive and thanked everyone for their interest

6) Welcome New Executive

- Jim welcomed the new executive

7) New Business

- Parent asked that in order to make AE teams more competitive in playoffs, could we put in Major/Minor mix - would drop down to AE2 and AE3
- Parent advised that no extra ice needed and it would improve skill level
- Deb asked if there is there a league?
- Don said they play in Harriston
- Steve commented that we are looking at AE
- John P asked if you are allowed to carry minor?
- Jim replied no, not in division we are in
- Jim advised that the only real change WMH is looking at for AE is to try to get AE down one level
- P commented that it is too late to classify this season, but requested WMH consider down the road - Suggest A, AE2,AE3
- Don commented that at some levels there would be no place for them to play and this would only be accommodating for playoffs

8) Adjournment at 9:00