



Woolwich Minor Hockey Association

www.woolwichminorhockey.ca

24 Snyder Ave. South (Elmira Arena)
P.O. Box 204 ▪ Elmira Ontario ▪ N3B 2Z6
519-669-2789

Annual General Meeting Report

April 12, 2017

LOCATION: WMC Community Room
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
CHAIR/PRESIDENT: Rob Moyer
SECRETARY: Sheri Ritchie

Present: Zack Barriage, Tracey Williams, Brett Bickerton, Derrick Forwell, Peter Weiss, Jason Waechter, Kevin Brown, Barry Keen, Rob Hall, Paul Lucier, Rob Moyer, Jasmine Roth, Dave Lee, Steve, Sheri Ritchie

1) Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion to accept previous minutes: Paul Lucier/Zack Barriage

2) Presidents Report – Rob Moyer

I would like to welcome you to our Annual General Meeting. Please feel free to ask any questions at the appropriate time as the subject is being discussed (showing respect to the floor).

If your question/comment was not raised, please wait until the time for new business is tabled (end of reports) for our membership and we will address it then.

We have just completed another successful year of Minor Hockey in Woolwich and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our executive, coaching staff, scorekeepers, volunteers, sponsors and of course our players for making this year a great one. We always have some challenges and we deal with them to the best of our abilities and as all of you know we are all volunteer's that do the best we possibly can and without the people putting in the time and effort, we would not have the strong association we do.

We do have some members of our executive moving on/changing roles and I want to thank them for their contribution to our association. We also look forward to new members joining and helping us in making our association a great one!

RECAP OF THE SEASON

- New Logo and Jerseys - We had decided on a new logo(s) and the Steering Committee put a lot of time and effort into this project. We now have all tenders in and are reviewing to see who it will be awarded to and will continue to facilitate this change. – new jerseys were on display



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- Woolwich Sunrays had another successful season and they continue to improve their program. We are very fortunate to have this organization provide a place to play this great game of hockey for those with special needs and we will continue to support in any way we can.
- Crimestopper Day was a success as it has been for the past 3 years. This is another community event we are fortunate to have. Thanks to Kurt Wilkie for organizing the hockey groups for this event.
- We had lots of on ice success stories this year and we are very proud of all our teams for their accomplishments. Our youngest team (Tyke Select) won in Tri County and our oldest team (Juvenile) won the OMHA title for the second year in a row and we had many LL and Rep teams competing for championships. Congrats to all!
- Referee's- We moved to a trial period (this season) to a 3-man crew in PW and a 4-man crew in Midget. Both were very well received and we will continue next season with this system. – Referee's cut down on injuries – extra cost well worth it

3) Treasurer Report – Jasmine Roth

- All registration fees were collected this year. It was higher since the time was taken to track down. Previous years cash and cheques slid under the door were hard to match up if it did not clearly indicate player's name.
- This year no cash – only cash and credit
- Sponsorship higher thanks to Chris
- Actual came in above budget
- Ice costs – include tournaments and a lot of teams moving on so ice cost up in March
- Referee expense higher due to change in 4 man
- Socks increased but were twice the quality
- Timekeeper higher included tournaments
- We will be building the money back up so in 5-6 year the money will be there to replace jerseys
- Tri-County meeting – one was missed \$50 fine for no one showing.
- Internet Services is our website
- Rob – There is nothing that can be done for the bank service charges. Jas and Rob had met with the bank to discuss.
- Kevin – Was shirt expense lower due to upcoming replacement of jerseys? - yes
- Paul – Why are trophies so much lower than last year? –the bill has not been paid yet for this year.

4) VP Rep – Zack Barriage

I would like to thank the entire executive for all their time and effort spent this season. A special thanks to Rob Moyer for the all the extra phone calls, emails, and meetings he deals with from week to week, and to Tracey Williams for doing a fantastic job again as scheduler and in the office keeping us on top of things, and taking some flak for us at times



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I would like to thank all the coaches, managers, team and tournament volunteers, as our success depends on their efforts every year as well

The rep program had another great year. Woolwich had 2 teams move out of their league and into Semi-Finals in the OMHA, with the Juvenile team moving to the finals and bringing home the championship again. Congratulations to them on another amazing year

We had 7 teams move on to the Tri-County finals and congratulations to the Tyke Select and Minor Bantam teams on their Championships

We did have a handful of suspensions in the first couple months of the season, but things got much quieter after that and there were almost none after Christmas

- Rob thanked Zack for a great job in his first year

5) VP LL – Kurt Wilkie

I would like to thank the entire executive staff for making this another successful year for Woolwich Minor Hockey Association. I would also like to acknowledge Rob Moyer and Tracey Williams for the incredible amount of work and time they both put in for the betterment of this association.

12 teams competed this season in the Grand River Local League. 5 of the 12 teams made championship finals with 3 more just missing out. Congratulations to Atom #1 and Bantam #1 on winning their division titles.

Thank you to all the coaches, managers, and trainers that donated countless hours of their time to our Local League program.

4 Novice and Atom player development sessions were put together with Tony Code and his staff at Woolwich Hockey Academy. The sessions were well received and registration filled up almost immediately.

Crime Stoppers event was held on April 9th and was very successful once again. Thanks to Pat Delay, Darryl Paquette and the rest of their team for running this great community event.

6) VP Coaching – Paul Lucier

WMHA is grateful for all the coaches, managers and trainers that have donated countless hours of their time to our association. We would like to thank them for their commitment and passion this season in helping to develop the young players in our association both on and off the ice. The 2016/17 season was a success for coaches in our association. We had several non-parent WMHA



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graduates begin their coaching careers this season and we expect them to continue developing and participating as coaches within our association.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback through our evaluation process with over 90 coach evaluations, which was down from last season. These evaluations contained valuable feedback, which will be constructively shared with the coaches to aid in their development. Along with several considerations, these reviews were also very valuable to the coach's selection committee when considering prospective coaches for the 2017/2018 season. As part of the process, the 'A' team coaching applications were accepted until February 10th for Tyke to Major Midget age groups and until February 20th for AE coaching applications. The 2017/18 Coaches were selected by the Coaching Selection Committee and posted on the WMHA site March 29th. The Committee consists of the President, V.P. Rep, V.P Local League, and V.P Player Development.

An appreciation dinner for Coaches, Trainers, Managers, and Sponsors will be held May 4th at the Grill on the Green restaurant and will be paid for by WMHA. We expect to have 75 to 100 attendees at the dinner.

In October, we ran a coaching clinic together with the Elmira Sugar Kings coaching staff. The clinic was well attended and feedback received was positive. We plan to continue this clinic for the upcoming season and we plan to add a clinic for trainers as well. Clinics for new or expiring coach and trainer certificates will be posted on the website and in the next newsletter. Also, we'd like to remind all coaches to make sure their police checks are completed well in advance of the season starting.

For the upcoming season, we have plans to initiate a coach mentorship program to provide additional resources and mentorship for our coaches who are just starting out with the association. This program will utilize the 'At Large' coaching list by assigning specific mentors for new coaches and providing ongoing development assistance with season planning, during practices and on the bench during games.

To ensure the safety of all WMHA participants and to provide an increased level of support to our coaches, coaching staff and managers, we have spent time reviewing and updating our codes of conduct for the WMHA, for players, for parents/guardians/spectators and for coaches/coaching staff/trainers/managers. These updated codes will be published on our website and will continue to be used in the coach/manager manuals and as part of the rostering process. As part of this process, we have also reviewed and decided to replace the 'TRUST' program, which was the game and conduct management initiative for our association. The 'TRUST' program will be replaced with the WMHA Discipline & Dispute Resolution Process. We will publish this program on the



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WMHA site before the start of the 2017/18 season and it will be discussed with team managers and then shared with parents through the team meeting process.

- Awards to be handed out at Appreciation Dinner
- Question from the floor regarding Mentorship – Will coaches pick from a list or be assigned to them? – a few names on the list for the coaches to choose. Want coach to feel comfortable with mentor. Suggestions are welcome on how the program could work. It will be welcome to anyone - parent coaches or non-parent coaches
- Rob – coaches can get better and keeps everyone involved

7) VP Player Development – Rob Hall/Josh Gruhl

Initiation and Pre-Novice Groups:

- Once again, these two groups have very successful seasons.
 - Initiation numbers (players enrolled) were 55 approximately and Pre-Novice enrollment was 45 approximately. Totalling 100 players in these 2 categories – these numbers show strong participation in our region and this is great for the game going forward.
 - Once again evaluations were completed during the first 2-3 skates for both groups (initiation and PN) and players were aligned into groups that made teams “balanced” and more importantly positioned players to play with other players that had similar skill sets.
 - All teams (initiation and PN) once again participated in the Kurtzville Fun day’s tournament and hearing from all coaches the players and families once again enjoyed their experience there.
- ** The participation and engagement from volunteers (coaches, managers and on-ice supporters) for our initiation and PN groups was tremendous this year. Each group Initiation (split into 2 groups & PN also split into 2 groups) supported a HC and manager for each and at least 3-4 on-ice supports.

This truly is the success of our programs at this level and I’d like to take this time to thank each and every individual that supported the programs and our players on and off the ice.

Opportunities for review:

1. Hockey Canada has now introduced some changes to the initiation and PN formats. Teams will now engage in what is referenced as “cross ice games”
The stats that Hockey Canada has collected show that the benefits to players in this format will help enhance their overall experience as “first timers” to the game of hockey, and more importantly the levels of confidence that players gain increases.
A team of executives will be reviewing the mandate handed down from Hockey Canada and the OMHA and will introduce these changes for our upcoming season 2017-18.
2. Changes will also be reviewed at our PN category. Our executive team along with our regional OMHA representative will engage in conversations centered on restructuring our PN category to



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possibly introduce and new categories/levels to the program. Many centers are following this same set up and currently our enrollment numbers would support this as well.

This will first be reviewed and presented to our OMHA representative before any further going forward action is taken.

If and when any changes are to be introduced, a full summary of the structure and format will be summarized to our association members.

Skills Development Skates – (Tony Code – WHA)

- Once again, our association aligned with Tony and his instructors from the WHA (Woolwich Hockey Academy) this season.
- Teams were provided between 6-7 development skates with Tony and his staff and the feedback was once again mainly positive.
- The association feels strongly about skills development for our players and will be reviewing the program as we move towards our up-coming season 2017-18.
- We will review our current program, the feedback we've received and also venture towards any new opportunities in the area that can be provided and be supported by the WMHA.
- The association is aware that some groups (Bantam and Midget mainly) are looking for more options when it comes to development training and this will be a review point for our executive team throughout the summer months.

Goalie Development – (Steve Sumka)

- For what would be the 4th season now, our association secured the help and support of Steve Sumka (out of Orangeville Minor Hockey) to continue his work with our goalie tenders within the association.
- Steve (along with Josh Gruhl) provided direction, instruction and support to goalies in our association in the form of goalie clinics that ran Saturday mornings. There were approximately 6-7 sessions for each team throughout the season. Goalies from each team were grouped into Junior and Senior "type" categories.
- After this season, we reached out to the members of the association via a feedback survey related to our goalie clinic set up and structure. The feedback was plentiful and is still under review.
- Our executive team will also be reviewing the current program related to goalie development and looking for any new opportunities that are within budget parameters and feasibility for goalie participation and development in the region.

Closing statements:

- I personally now would like to recognize Josh Gruhl for his endlessly and on-going efforts in our goal tender development. Josh was on the ice for ALL clinics and worked side by side with Mr.



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Sumka and numerous goalies within our association. Josh – thank you for your efforts! The development work you’ve done with our goalies is tremendous and that is something that has not gone unrecognized.

- I further would like to thank both Josh and Steve G. for their support and assistance with the roll out of our Initiation and PN groups. It takes a number of tireless hours to prepare, structure and “put players to the ice” in these 2 categories and it would not have been successful without your support.
- Last but certainly not least (by any means) – Tracey Williams (office administrator and ice scheduling). Tracey... quite simply... thank you for everything that you do! The countless hours that you put forth in these areas of the association I do NOT believe get highlighted or recognized enough. You work continuously hours to support a significantly large group of players, parents, coaches, managers and supporters – and without you and your endless duties that are required for these groups, our season would not be as successful as they have been. I personally want to thank you on behalf of all the participants in these categories and want you to know that I appreciate all you have done.
 - Comment from the floor – regarding tiers for pre-novice – better average by grouping at skill level; Tracey– initiation is not in line with the OMHA – 7 year old with more skill – IP 7 & IP6 – gives us a tier to the Novice. Give the players ready for more game play.
 - Rob - Tier approach according to their abilities – advancing their skills.
 - Floor feels it would work and Kids will develop a lot better
 - Kevin comments that it ties into the mentorship; Rob – managers can guide the people with the new experience so it is not overwhelming; Tracey – can’t operate as a separate organization and became obvious this year; Rob – the numbers have grown.

8) Ice Scheduler – Tracey Williams

Scheduling presented the same challenges it does from year to year – we get a fair amount of negative comments about the scheduling. I do think for the most part it is because it is difficult for people to understand the enormity of the task.

We did try to make few changes with the scheduling this year – which included providing our older LL teams with solo practices, when we could.

We did provide solo practices for the most part for the rep teams from Minor Peewee and above, with the Major Atom age group being able to take advantage of solo practices when available.

9) Office Administrator/Registrar – Tracey Williams

Registration Summary

- Total registrants for the 2016-17 season was 610 – approx. 10 more players than last year.



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- 40 teams total - 18 rep teams, 12 LL teams plus 2 PreNovice and 2 Initiation groups and our Special Hockey Team, the SunRays

Hockey Office

It was my second year as Office Manager and I believe everything ran relatively smoothly. There was still lots to learn and a few stumbles but I think for the most part, we worked through the issues in a timely and efficient fashion.

We have made a few changes in our registration process for this upcoming season – for both Tryouts and Hockey Registration. The “Tryout Passport” is available to purchase online using PayPal. This has streamlined the tryout sign up process – we should be able to provide accurate lists to Coaches prior to tryouts and the processing of the payments, should allow the tryout check in time to be reduced and the tracking much easier.

For Registration, we have eliminated the option of paying by Cash and are now providing a credit card option. There have been some issues, as there would be with anything new but we are working through them and are hoping to make the registration process simpler for everyone and easier to track.

The process for issuing our Permission to Skate and NRP forms has changed – parents can now request the forms online and we have scheduled pick up times at the Office, which seems to work better.

- The Banquet was cancelled this year, for a one year trial. So far, we have received positive feedback on this decision. We will re-evaluate for next year.
- Rob – there has not been that many negative comments about the banquet being cancelled.
- Comment from Floor – felt it was a good idea it was cancelled.
- Comment from floor that the Online registration works good
- Online registration solves matching payment to child

10) Fundraising Committee – Rob Alles

WMHA was engaged in two successful fundraising programs this season. Total profit generated was \$22,719.00

The Elmira Sugar Kings cash calendar program raised \$3,095.00 for our teams and an additional \$6,190.00 for our entire association. Our members sold a total of 619 calendars this season. Sales ranged from 10 to 34 calendars sold with an average of 18 per team.

The pepperette program raised \$13,490.00 this season and all funds were retained directly by our teams. A total of 7,709 packages of pepperettes were sold. Sales ranged from 77 to 552 packages sold with an average of 226 per team.



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- Rob - Cash calendars will stay the same for the upcoming season
- Peppernettes – few years ago the association received the money. Now profits go to the team – suggested for the upcoming year to give forms out to teams to handle dropping off cash and picking up product.

11) Tournament- Tracey Williams/Jasmine Roth

Woolwich Weekend

Once again, first and foremost, we want to give a great big shout out to all of the Volunteers that helped make this weekend possible!! Without these volunteers that help before and during the weekend, our Tournament would not be possible! Special shout out to Mike Lenaers who was the Co-Director for the Tournament, Zack Barriage, Rob and Mel Alles, Peri and Rob Moyer, Leanne Rollins, Shelley Deyell, Lori Moser and Chris Williams who contributed many hours to the Weekend and were an invaluable support system as always. Thank you to our Team Managers who always give a little extra (on top of everything else they do) that weekend. Thank you also to our Executive Members who worked all through the weekend.

The Weekend was a great success. We had 42 teams participating this year - 6 divisions: Minor Peewee, Peewee AE, Peewee LL, Minor Bantam, Major Bantam and Bantam LL from all over Ontario – as far away as Ottawa.

The feedback was excellent from all the teams and it's always nice to have many of the same teams coming back year after year!!

Our profits this year, were approximately \$11,000.

- Next season Woolwich weekend will be an Early bird tournament in September ran by Brandon
- Opportunity – there is no early bird in this area
- Freshen it up for next year
- It will not count as one of tournament for our teams
- Comment from floor – free up ice time during peak season

Woolwich Cup Challenge -

Thank you to Kurt and the volunteers who stepped up to make this happen this year. With a total of 26 novice & atom teams participating from across Ontario we were able to raise just over \$6,000 for WMHA. Next year Kurt Wilkie will be running the tournament. We are looking forward to a fresh look and can't wait to see what he has in store.



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12) Sponsorship – Chris Williams

This year we raised over \$16,000 in sponsorship dollars. A big thank you to all of our Sponsors for continuing to support Woolwich Minor Hockey! Year after year we have many repeat Sponsors who support our organization and it is much appreciated by all our players and families. And of course, thank you to all of our new sponsors that came on board this year.

- Actual is \$17,000
- Paul suggested– Sponsor of the month – highlighting them on the website
- Rob – Chris knows what he was doing, spreadsheet and knows every one. It is great to have him back on board.
- Kevin – banners were removed and would like to discuss how to make them come back; Rob – it is permanent change would need to be a constitution change; Tracey suggested teams use door magnet as long as the sponsor is main visual; Paul – something will need to be drawn up stating that the team sponsor is triple the size; Rob – give the teams a list of sponsors so they don't call the same sponsor asking for more money
- Zack – new jersey sponsor bar – sponsor can follow their kid through levels
- Rob – do a photo contest for your sponsor. Velcro will make the sponsorship easier. Willing to look back at the banner but needs to be mandate; Jasmine – have an approved company complete the banners
- Change to a constitution needs to be tabled at January meeting.

13) Webmaster – Leanne Rollins

The 2016-2017 hockey year saw many online improvements to both process and registration:

- Focused on online registration for as many things as possible, including tournaments, Spring 4 on 4, Tryout passes, etc.
- Started to accept credit card payments – we will accept online payment for 2017-2018 Hockey Canada Registrations this year
- Updated the website with the new logo and colour scheme
- We had a successful year with the Elmira District Hockey Refs Associations using a module within our site to assign refs. The result was NO missed games and much better communication between our two organizations

Best of luck to the next webmaster!

- Rob – Leanne did a great job for many years. Looking forward to working with the new webmaster Brett



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- Paul – Are there other features that we don't use? Tracey – everything comes at a cost but there are items that we are not using; Rob – all Tri-Counties use this module; Tracey – upgrades based on suggestions.

14) Photos – Barry Keen

I would like to thank the teams and their staff for making the team photos a success. The photos this year went very well.

On behalf of the WMHA I would like to thank Jasmine of Jasmine Roth Photography for the many years she has been the photographer for the WMHA, since she is hanging up her camera. She has done an awesome job and has helped make the whole team photo process run smoothly.

The last of the Sponsor's team photos will be delivered at the Coach/Sponsor Appreciation dinner.

The tender for photos for the next 2 years will be on the website in the next few weeks.

- Rob – Thanks to Jasmine for many years taking the photos
- Kevin comment – liked on the ice photos

15) Concussion Management – Dave Lee

We changed our concussion program to reflect changing dynamics on how concussions are diagnosed and treated as we all know that these types of injuries can be very impactful on a person.

We have partnered up with Woolwich Physiotherapy to offer our players the best possible program we can.

It now includes in person physical Baseline testing rather than a computer program that had left than tangible benefits, in person education for players and parents and an established local physiotherapy office to continue to provide information and treatment for concussions.

Feedback from this change is very positive and we look to improve it as much as possible.

Thanks to Dave Lee for heading up this program the last several years, as he is stepping down we will be looking for a person to step up and fill the role.

- Dave comment a lot of people thought the concussion program was great
- Rob – very successful changed and cost the same amount of money as last year
- Same amount of concussions as last year



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- Paul – Was there any feedback from the people who used? Dave – Once cleared by Grand River and coordinate with Woolwich Physiotherapy. Last years kids were too young for the test and was based out of Calgary

16) Spiritwear – Rob Alles

Our spirit wear program consisted of offers from two vendors this season. PK Sports and Sportszone. Both vendors offered a variety of items for our teams to choose.

WMHA team warm-up suits have been supplied by Bauer for several years in both red and blue options. Bauer announced in 2017 that the current style/look of team warm up suits will be discontinued and replaced with a new design/ new look. The new jacket is a 3-pc unit with a basic shell option, a fleece option and a “bubble style insulated option. These can be worn individually or combined together.

Our executive reviewed different programs/options for future team warm-up suits. CCM was chosen as the new style that will provide the best value and availability for our teams moving forward. Blue will continue to be our warm up suit colour.

As always, these warm up suits are NOT a mandatory item for teams. However, if a team chooses to wear warm up style jackets and pants this is the only approved option for our association. Teams who currently have Bauer red or blue suits are still approved suits and it is NOT mandatory to upgrade to CCM.

All spirit wear moving forward will use the new logos as approved by the executive at the March 2017 meeting

- Zack - CCM will have to have the W logo
- Zack - 3rd vendor – items will be available at all locations
- Rob will be stepping down. Thanks for all his hard work
- Jasmine – Bauer is 3 piece. Current is a midweight which is discontinued. CCM was chosen because of the cost to get the coat of the same weight
- Rob - all vendors can sell CCM

17) Equipment – Pat Leonard

Thank you to all the coaches and managers for helping get the equipment out and returned this season.

We are happy to announce that for the coming 2016/2017 season all rep and local league jerseys will be replaced to a new style and logo.



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Working with our budget, we were also able to purchase some new goalie equipment for this coming season to assist with the cost of those players wanting to play this position.

- Kevin Brown has taken over a lot of the role
- Hoping to clear out some of the old equipment with a garage sale
- Trainer kits will be revamp and unify them so every team should have the basics.
- Comment from the floor – Teams have been buying their own supplies since there is not enough in the kits that are given out
- Paul – suggested to give each team a budget. Rob – it is a liability that we need to give them something. Woolwich Pharmacy are a sponsor and we get our medical equipment from them.
- Deposit on all jerseys will be required for the new jersey

18) New Business from the floor

- David Lee, Leanne Rollins, Kurt Wilkie, Rob Alles - Tracey has a little something for all their hard work
- Question from floor – Can fundraising be something other than pepperettes? We are going to add in Apples. Will give all the teams the info to fundraise different products.
- Dave – Why are bottle drives not allowed in the constitution? It is because of the alcohol and handling the bottles.

Amendments for constitution

- 1) Fundraising – all teams must have Fundraising Chair approval – carried
- 2) Spirtwear Vendors changed to approved W.M.H.A approved vendors – carried
- 3) Coach selection committee changed to before January 31st – carried
- 4) Fair Play of Players - carried

Positions available on the Executive

Brett – Webmaster – Brett Bickerton– Paul/Zack – carried
VP Local League – Barry Keen - Paul/Zack – carried
Concussions – Vacant
Spirtwear – Zack – Paul/Kevin - carried
Fundraising – Vacant
Equipment - Kevin to be Director and Pat to be Assistant - Rob/Paul - carried
Sponsorship Assistant - Paul – Rob/Zack - carried

Conclude 9:57pm