



Woolwich Minor Hockey Association

AGENDA

April 18, 2018

7:30 pm

Woolwich Memorial Centre, Community Room

Chairperson – Rob Moyer

Review and Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting

Reports and Updates

- President's Report (Rob)
- VP Rep (Zack)
- VP Local League (Barry)
- VP Coaching (Paul)
- VP Player Development (Rob Hall)
- Office Administrator/Registrar (Tracey)
- Ice Scheduler (Tracey)
- Fundraising (Jasmine)
- Spiritwear (Zack)
- Woolwich Cup Tournament (Kurt)
- Woolwich Fall Memorial Tournament (Brandon)
- Equipment (Kevin)
- Sponsorship (Chris)
- Webmaster (Brett)
- Photos (Barry)
- Concussion Management
- Treasurer (Jasmine)
- Amendments to the Constitution
- Executive Positions available and Voting
- Open Floor



2017 – 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

APRIL 18, 2018

WOOLWICH MEMORIAL COMMUNITY ROOM

7:30 PM

PRESIDENT

Rob Moyer

I would like to thank all members (volunteers, players, parents) of our association for another great year of hockey. It certainly is a pleasure to hear & see so many successes on/off ice again this season and as we know it is not always about winning or losing but rather the road traveled and how our players grow into fine young adults. We should all feel very proud to be Wildcats and of our community which supports these teams as well as these players are truly the reason we get up early to drop the kids off or come home late from an away game.

I also must say a few words about our executive. While it's not easy running the association, we do a great job keeping balance in our organization and that comes from the work of our dedicated executive members. The time and effort put in by these people is just overwhelming at times and we could not do it without them. We all work very hard to make sure the kids can play and this group was no different. As some might know we will be losing a few executive members this year and they will be hard to replace. From Rob Hall and all the work, he has done with player development, Paul Lucier who stepped up to look after the coaches and Sheri Ritchie, our secretary who listened at every meeting and kept track of all minutes without one complaint! We are blessed to have worked with these people and that they devoted the time needed to our association, thanks for your contribution. I also want to thank Tracey Williams for her endless work in the hockey office. While she is not leaving us she sure does a great job for this organization.

One last thing I want to talk about is Friends of Hockey. Woolwich is blessed to have this origination to help families with the cost of playing this great game. Without them we would have players that would not be able to experience the ups and downs of hockey so for that we are forever grateful! FOH is always looking for donations of gently used equipment and money as well. If you can assist please reach out to FOH and they will gladly take your donations.

VP REP

Zack Barriage

Thank you to the entire executive for their hard work again this year

Thank you to Tracey for all the extra work she does above and beyond

We had an incredible (and possibly record setting) 7 teams in the OMHA semi-finals, with 4 moving on to the finals. Huge congratulations to all 4 of those teams for winning 3-0 in the finals and at home! Those teams are Novice A, Bantam A, Midget AE, and Midget A

Through this, both the Bantam A and Midget A teams will be heading to the OHF Championships on April 12-15 (As of the date of this report, good luck to both teams)

We also had 3 teams in the Tri County finals, with the Tyke Select, Peewee A, and Minor Midget A teams all bringing home the championship on those!

We had a number of teams win tournaments across the province as well, from Woolwich weekend to Silverstick

It was an incredibly successful year for rep hockey in Woolwich and we hope to build on that in the future

Next season we will be adding a Minor Bantam MD team to our lineup, while still offering the same AE and A options we did this year. The new MD loop in Tri County will run almost identical to AE, with the only changes being that there is no body checking and no playdowns, but they are allowed an extra tournament instead. We are excited to see how this goes as we have heard fantastic feedback from other centres who tried it this year

VP LOCAL LEAGUE

Barry Keen

Local League has had another successful year. I just wanted to say after this being my first year as VP of LL, I would like to thank the executive, coaches and coaching staff for their help and support this season. I can honestly say it was a challenge.

We had 12 teams, in local league. 6 teams went to division finals, congratulations to Novice #1 and Peewee #2 on winning their series.

VP COACHING

Paul Lucier

Once again, the association wishes to thank all those who volunteered to be head coaches for our rep and local league teams as well as the many assistants, trainers and managers. For anyone who has stepped up to take on these commitments, they know the passion, energy and the number of hours these folks put forth every season. It is highly appreciated by the players who benefit from their mentorship, instruction and development both on and off the ice in creating talented hockey players and mature young men and women.

The association was very fortunate to have some young and dedicated non-parent coaches start with our association as well as few continue into their second season. These are the coaches and leaders of the future for our association, so their willingness to volunteer is an excellent development we hope will continue in coming seasons.

This season we updated our coaching evaluation forms and expanded the scope to include a season evaluation as well as comment areas for the coaches, trainers and managers and an area for feedback from the kids as well. We received just over 85 evaluations, which was slightly less than the past season.

The 2018/19 coaches were selected by the Coaching Selection Committee, presented to the WMHA executive and posted on the WMHA site April 2nd. The Committee consisted of the President, V.P. Rep, V.P Local League, and V.P Player Development.

An appreciation dinner for Coaches, Trainers, Managers, Sponsors and individual award winners will be held April 28th 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.

VP PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Rob Hall/Josh Gruhl/Jeff MacGregor/Kurt Wilkie

IP4 / IP5 and IP6 – categories:

- Once again, these three groups had very successful seasons.
- Our enrollment numbers for the three IP categories were once again “healthy”.

IP4 – 24 players

IP5 – 20 players

IP6 (2 separate groups) – totaled close to 50 players combined.

In total our IP program nearly supported 100 youth hockey players and this is tremendous for Woolwich hockey moving forward.

- Significant changes were handed down from Hockey Canada and the OMHA this hockey season with regards to cross ice hockey development. These changes were mandated across the entire OMHA and were closely monitored by regional OMHA directors. Our association was very successful in the execution of cross ice hockey development and this was possible due to the skill and dedication of our volunteers working directly in the program. Cross ice hockey development is something that is NOT new

to the sport. Many associations across NA have aligned with cross ice development and now our OMHA (along with many other associations) are continuing to align with this mandate that has been handed down.

Opportunities for review:

Seeing that this was the 1st season we engaged cross ice hockey development in our WMHA, we took time to hear from our dedicated volunteers on the ice to see what we could improve upon as we move forward with our cross-ice development season planning.

1. Ice times / scheduling.

We will review ice times and scheduling to see if we can provide more ice to these groups that will assist in the number of players on the ice at one time.

2. Practice planning.

Support for our volunteers will come in the form of pre-planned practices to help ensure the engagement levels stay strong with our players over the course of the long hockey season.

Development Changes for the 2018-19 hockey season and going forward:

Once again Hockey Canada will be introducing changes to the development category of our youth hockey players and associated programs.

Below you will see the parameters that Hockey Canada will be introducing over the course of the next 2 hockey seasons. WMHA will be reviewing all of the specifics that will be required to support the coming 2018-19 changes, along with 2019-20 season changes as well. At this time there is still plenty of work to be done for the coming season so little has been confirmed at this present time.

This information was obtained by WMHA executive in March of this year, via Hockey Canada / OHF / OMHA official release.

HOCKEY CANADA POLICY

Hockey Canada has established national guidelines to ensure optimal development of hockey players at this crucial introductory stage:

Game play at the Novice age-group and below will be Cross/Half-ice effective 2019-20

Programming in the Ontario Hockey Federation, which Ontario Minor Hockey is a member, will be implemented as follows:

1. Effective 2017-18 - Game play for the Initiation age-group (5 & 6 year-olds) will be Cross-Ice
2. Effective 2018-19 - Game play for the Tyke age-group (7 year-olds) will be Half-Ice.
3. Effective 2019-20 - Game play for the Novice age-group (8 year-olds) will be Half-Ice during the first half of the season and transition to Full-Ice during the second half of the season.



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 2018-19. 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.

Goalie Development – (Steve Sumka)

- For what would be the 5th 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.
- 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 remarks:

- I would like to take time and thank my team – Jeff M, Josh G and Kurt W. for all of the time and effort you have all provided to the IP programs and the association as a whole. The success of the IP programs would not be possible without all of your expertise and dedication.

Thank you all for everything you’ve done.

- I would like to thank all members of the executive team that I’ve worked with. Working with each and every one of you has been a great experience. I’ve learnt a tremendous amount from all of you and have a much better understanding of what it takes to manage a hockey association. Seeing “all of the moving parts” within the association certainly has opened my eyes to a number of things that I certainly took for granted. I want to thank you for the support you’ve provided me these last two years that I’ve serviced on the executive and further want you to know that I will always be around to support in the future.

OFFICE ADMINSTRATOR / REGISTRAR / ICE SCHEDULER

Tracey Williams

Registration Summary

- Total registrants for the 2017-18 season was 610 – about the same as last year
- 34 teams total - 17 rep teams, 12 LL teams 1 IP4 team, 1 IP5 team and 2 IP6 teams and our Special Hockey Team, the SunRays

Hockey Office

Hockey Office was super busy this past year, as always. In addition to the normal day to day business that needs attending to, we also had a new Course introduced (Gender Identity Course) that added additional work for all our Coaches/Volunteers.

Our historical success as an Association, made Jan through April much busier than normal.

Scheduling

Scheduling, as always, was extremely challenging. Ensuring all teams had adequate ice times, getting all games in due to league restrictions and working within the Township parameters makes the job difficult.

We always get complaints about the way the scheduling is done but I prefer to believe its due to Parents not fully understanding how the system works – as I sure didn't until I took on this role.

We are always striving to be as efficient as we can with our ice allotments – returning ice when we can and opening available ice up to all teams.

Looking forward, we will lose ice in early January next year due to the Ontario Curling Championship – we are looking at options as we can't shut down our teams during that time.

Thank you to all of our Families, Coaches and Executive for making this season a great success!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Jasmine Roth

For the fundraising this year we decided to run 2 fundraisers for the Association. The Cash Calendars was the major fundraiser for the Association and we raised \$5380.00 selling a total of 538 cash calendars. The 2nd was selling tickets for the Sugar Kings elimination dance, raising \$1042.

We agreed that we would encourage teams to run other fundraisers including pepperettes on their own. Many teams participated and were in contact with Stemmlers directly. In the past the Association ran this fundraiser for the teams with 100% of the funds raised going back to the team, however we felt due to the amount of time and resources required to oversee this fundraiser and the lack of a fundraising executive member, it was best to leave it up to the teams to organize on their own.

SPIRIT WEAR COMMITTEE

Zack Barriage

We had all new jerseys this year across Rep and LL. The jerseys seemed to be received very well, and we heard lots of positive feedback throughout the year regarding them and our new logos.

This year we switched to having 3 approved vendors (Sportszone, PK Sportswear, Gameday), who all paid \$450 to be part of our Spirit wear program. It gained them access to our logos and we left the decision up to each individual team on who they wanted to purchase items from. I think this program went very well and led to a higher satisfaction among our teams, as well with the vendors. We plan to continue this program, although it sounds like Gameday will not be joining again as they have new ownership and did not see the return on investment that they were hoping for last year.

TOURNAMENT CHAIRS

Woolwich Fall Memorial

Brandon Brubacher

The 42nd Annual Woolwich Fall Memorial Tournament was a great success. This long time running tournament (one of the longest currently running in Ontario) has been a significant part of the Woolwich Minor Hockey Association for many years and has been very successful. In the past, this tournament has typically taken place on the third weekend of November. However, with the ever-growing competition of tournaments in the Toronto areas, we thought it would be best to try an “Early Bird” tournament as there are not many tournaments like these offered in the area. The response to the changed date was great, we had considerable interest in local centres, with some associations entering 4 of their teams. We also saw a great response from “out of town” centres which made it exciting seeing new teams coming through the doors.

The tournament had a total of 35 “A” teams competing in 6 different age groups. Our Woolwich teams did very well, with 4 out of the 6 teams making it to the finals and ultimately 2 Woolwich teams leaving with Championship hats.

We received plenty of positive feedback with multiple teams mentioning they will be back for next year’s tournament. Teams loved the “team goodie bags” as well as the raffle and silent auction table. Adding to the tournament's excitement, we were able to bring an assortment of food trucks for each day the tournament ran. However, we may choose to opt out of this for next year as it wasn't as popular as we had initially planned for it to be. Nevertheless, it was a fantastic weekend filled with great hockey.

For next season, we would like to add the “Minor and Major A” age groups. By bringing in more teams, it would make it a 48-team tournament with a total of 8 divisions. Dates are currently in the works to see if this is possible.

I would like to thank Tracey Williams for all of her help with this tournament. Tracey sent me in the right direction and trusted me in running this well-respected tournament. I asked her more questions than I can think of and she helped me out immensely.

I can’t wait to get started on next year’s Fall Memorial!

Woolwich Cup Challenge

Kurt Wilkie

The Woolwich Cup was a popular and successful tournament again this year. The feedback was excellent from all the teams and it was nice to see many new teams participate. With a total of 24 Novice, Atom and Peewee teams participating from across Ontario we were able to raise almost \$5500 for WMHA. Thank you to Tracey Williams, Rob Moyer, Jenn Lipp, and all the volunteers for helping all weekend. The tournament will take place in November again next season.

EQUIPMENT

Kevin Brown

We are in the middle of ordering more equipment for the IP program. The rink dividers purchased last year worked well. We are looking for higher ones for the IP7 and looking towards IP8. We will be meeting with the Township for storage ideas.

The new jerseys were well received this season.

We are in the process of selling off some of the older jersey sets.

SPONSORSHIP

Chris Williams

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 of our players and families. And of course, thank you to all of our new sponsors that came on board this year.

WEBMASTER

Brett Bickerton

The WMHA website is viewed as the communication hub for the association bringing up-to-date information to its membership. For the 2017 calendar year, the website saw an increase in visitors to 192,071 which is up 14% from the previous year. We continue to augment the website towards achieving the following goals:

- To provide near real-time details on teams and their schedules
- To maintain a positive user experience where information is easy to find and digest
- To streamline processes by leveraging online forms and features
- To be used as a management tool by Players, Coaches, Managers, Parents, Staff and the Executive.

In addition to the website, we have actively used our social media streams to communicate our messages to the public and expanded the offering to include Twitter and Instagram.

Users are encouraged to submit their feedback and suggestions on the website and social media platforms to webmaster@woolwichminorhockey.ca.

PHOTOS

Barry Keen

I would like to thank the Executive again for their support since this year photos were also a challenge.

This year we changed the format for the pictures mainly to try and insure that everyone on every team were in the pictures. The new format was not totally well received and because of the feedback we will be using a more traditional format like we have in the past.

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

15 Woolwich Minor Hockey players were seen for baseline retesting / concussion management at WPT during the 2017/18 hockey season. 14 of 15 players had suffered a concussive incident, presented with symptoms and did have diagnosed concussions. The remaining player tested did have an incident whereby concussion was suspected, however, did not present with symptoms, had no concerns with baseline retesting and was deemed not to have a concussion per physician assessment. Of interest 8 of 14 athletes with diagnosed concussions were in the PeeWee age group. Known size differential in this age group? Increased pushing/ shoving without penalties, and/or lack of training in taking a check in this age group were reasons we hypothesized may be underlying this trend?

Overall, we felt that the concussion management program went well this year. On the whole parents and athletes were very cooperative and compliant with the program. Parents who attended the education sessions pre- season with their sons/ daughters appeared to be much better prepared for the Concussion Management protocol than those who did not attend or read the prepared handout. We were very impressed with the trainers this season who were very diligent in recognizing concussive incidents and supported the Concussion Management Program as outlined.

TREASURER

Jasmine Roth

See attachments at back.