

GLEN CAIRN LADIES SOFTBALL LEAGUE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, September 10th, 2014
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Lion's Den

Present: Cara Doxsee, Kimberly Kirby, Dixie McDonald, Cathy Wright, Heather MacDonald, Christine Anderson, Karen Wood, Jaime Carruthers, Lynn Cameron, Kim Perkins, Deb Ward, Kim Wicker, Janice Emmerson, Tracy Scrimshaw, Linda Wilson, Kelly Cannon (16)

Regrets: MP McNeill, Sue Kehoe, Julie Rollin, Bani Ahara

Cara opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from last AGM Meeting – October 2nd, 2013

Moved: Tracy Scrimshaw

Seconded: Karen Wood

Carried

President's Report – see attached

Financial Statement - see attached

Dixie reported that there are still a few expenses to come for the banquet. Banquet tickets are being sold for \$5 each, which will generate some revenue. Tournament costs are higher than last year. This year we paid for a port-a-potty at AYJ for both tournaments and we were short one sponsor for the September tournament. The website fee was higher but covered 2 years.

Committee Reports

- a. Rules & Special Projects including Equipment – see attached report prepared by MP regarding sponsorships and shirts. Kim reported that we purchased some bats and bat bags this season and are still waiting for one bat bag. We did not purchase balls this year, as we had previously purchased a 2 year supply. However, next season we will have the cost of buying new balls.
- b. Playoffs – Cathy reported that we were able to begin playoffs on time, by playing 9 games the last week of the regular season. We've only had one rain out during playoffs so far, but that game has already been made up. Playoffs are going well.
- c. Tournament – The May tourney went well and the weather cooperated. Sept tourney - thanks to everyone who helped to get the diamonds ready. Recommendation – look for a diamond with lights for the Friday night extra game.

- d. Year-end banquet and Awards – Christine reported that the DJs are booked. We have bartenders. We still need door prizes. We need an MC for the evening. Food will be supplied by Kanata BBQ – lots of good food options cooked on site so the food will be hot. It would have been a good idea to ask about allergies and to have a vegetarian food option available. Each team is being asked to provide a dessert. This will help to reduce costs and offer a variety of desserts. Karen Bailey still needs photos for the year end video. We will draw for one ½ price membership for each team. We will resend the email about the banquet and remind people to reply with their choice of food for dinner.

2014 Executive

- President – Cara Doxsee
- Vice President – Kimberly Kirby
- Secretary – Heather MacDonald
- Treasurer – Sue Kehoe (a very tight race!)
- Statistician – Deb Ward
- Captains: Bani Ahara, Christine Anderson, Erika Smith, Julie Rollin, Julie Tremblay, Karen Wood, Leah Mammoletti, Marie-Paule McNeill, Sherry Timmins, Robin Gyimesi

New Business

- a. Last year's AGM outcome recap – Kanata Sports Club (KSC) memberships – if someone went on med leave we refunded all but the KSC membership fee. We did offer 2 pitching clinics. We also moved forward with the on-line banking.
- b. Holding clinics in winter/spring – Scorekeeping, Pitching, Catching. We would like to offer clinics for scorekeeping, pitching and catching next year. We may also have someone who would be willing to run an on-field clinic next year.
- c. Pre-registration or 2 registration nights

Should we consider moving registration to a night other than Friday night? We didn't get a great turnout and Cara spent a lot of time following up with people who missed registration. Alternatively, two nights for registration should mean less follow up. Karen Wood likes a Friday night so members can stay and socialize. Perhaps a Sunday afternoon would be a good alternative? Pre-registration might let you know earlier in the process if you will have enough pitchers and catchers. It helps to have extra time, as you also need to follow up with those on med leave to then determine if you have room for those on the waiting list.

- d. Safety rules

Should we consider a safety line at home late? The catcher is still at home plate but the runner crosses a line beside the plate. This takes out contact at the plate. Also the uneven ground in the batter's box on the right side of

the plate would not be an issue if we had the safety line. A comment from someone who doesn't like the safety line – a bad throw but the runner is still out.

Currently, if there is a play at the plate, the catcher should be in front of the plate, but the catcher cannot impede the runner if they don't have the ball. Catchers should be called for obstruction of the plate too. Do we need to educate catchers on the current rules in a clinic? If a catcher doesn't attend a clinic, would the captain be responsible to tell their catcher where to play at the plate? Should we make it mandatory that there are no collisions at home plate? If you run into the catcher you are out. It's a shared responsibility – catcher in the right spot and the runner using good judgement – no contact with catcher. The need to educate everyone.

Same issue at first base that the first baseman must be in position so that a base runner can round the base. Safe base running is important. Keep safety in mind.

So perhaps at the clinic next year we should mandate no collisions, see how that goes for a year and then reevaluate?

We need to make it clear to new players in our league what level of intensity is appropriate, again education. How to define our league – recreational but we are still competitive.

We need to coordinate with the umpires as well, so things are called appropriately. In general, make sure the umpires are aware of the rules in our league. Our executive talks to the Chief Umpire who should communicate with his team of umpires to ensure they know our rules. Make sure to let our VP know in a timely manner when there has been a problem with an umpire so we can deal with it.

- e. Code of conduct – Discipline – importance of reporting incidents and ejections

The executive was informed of an ejection 6 weeks after the game in which it occurred – that is unacceptable. Hard to deal with a situation when it's not current. They found out from the umpire's report. How to ensure communication is prompt? Write it on the score sheet and captain needs to follow up within 24 hours. Also educate captains about this at a clinic? If there is a concern, please bring it to the attention of the Executive ASAP.

- f. Proposal of implementing use of yellow balls for all games (not just late or overcast games)

Survey went to the pitchers for feedback this week. Overall favorable feedback. One comment about the yellow balls is that stitches on the yellow balls are raised and hard on the fingers. Would there be other

yellow balls with seams not so raised? (People complain the white balls are slippery. If the balls had higher seams, they would not be so slippery.) We want higher compression balls, so the balls don't come off the better bats too quickly – need to consider this if we look at other balls. If we only buy one colour of ball, we should get a better price as we would be buying a larger volume. Also the yellow balls are easier to see and therefore safer.

Open discussion

Discussion about whether the new pitcher who joined Leah's team in July has a legal delivery. Cara researched this after receiving an inquiry and determined that it is legal with the hop as long as the foot is dragged. In reality, if you analyzed the technique of all of the pitchers in our league you would probably find most have something that isn't quite right with their delivery. Apparently, it is actually the base umpire (not the home plate umpire) who is responsible for determining if the pitching technique is legal and we don't even have a base umpire, except for tournament finals. We also discussed whether it would make sense to use a pitcher's mound? Other users of the diamond might not want a mound? Perhaps a survey to the pitchers to see how they feel about the pitching mound. Would you have to take the mound out after each game, just like the bases?

There is a lot of good discussion at the AGM. It's too bad we don't get a better turnout. Maybe we should do the ½ price membership draw at the AGM to try to increase attendance?

Could we have tank tops which would be cooler? Perhaps people would consider purchasing a second top? Currently some people modify their shirts (cut the sleeves) or roll their sleeves.

How strict is the age of 18. Janice has a daughter who turns 18 on May 2. Must be 18 to play so you are covered by our league insurance. (It may work out for her daughter, depending on the start date of the league next year.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.