



**Glen Cairn Ladies Softball League
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Busters, Kanata
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

Minutes Recorded by: Lane Bourbonnière

Executives Present:

President	Kim Bond
Vice-President	Aline Lafrance
Secretary	Denise Bogart / Lane Bourbonnière
Treasurer	Liz Warren
Statistician	Jaime Carruthers

Members Present:

Bani Ahara	Cathy MacDonald
Taylor Albert	Rosanne MacMillan
Christine Anderson	Mandy Moskal
Dana Bourbonnière	Margaret Murphy
Stephanie (Steph) Brousseau	Kim Myles
Terri Cheeseman	Alexis Reid
Janice Emmerson	Kathleen Rernboldt
Sierra Emmerson	Tracy Scrimshaw
Sloane Emmerson	Jodi Sullivan
Robin Gyimesi	MP (Tiny) Tremblay
Pina Kelly	Linda Wilson
Kim Kirby	Stephanie (Steph) Wilson
Catherine (Cat) Ladouceur	Karen (Woody) Wood

1. Welcome, Meeting Objectives and Ground Rules

Kim Bond welcomed everyone, thanked all for coming, and then proceeded to review the agenda. Kim reminded all in attendance to be respectful of one another. If attendees would like to talk, it was asked that they raise their hands.

Kim also said farewell to Denise Bogart, who is departing the position of Secretary. Kim and the Executives expressed their appreciation for all of Denise's hard work and dedication. Kim also thanked Cat Ladouceur for stepping up and covering the position of Statistician for the remainder of the season.

Kim then introduced the 2023-24 Executives.

2. Departing Executives

Denise Bogart, Secretary

3. 2024 Executives

- a. Kim Bond, President
- b. Aline Lafrance, Vice President
- c. Lane Bourbonnière, Secretary
- d. Liz Warren, Treasurer
- e. Jaime Carruthers, Statistician
- f. Karen Bailey, Registrar (a non-voting position) and website manager

g. Captains:

Taylor Albert

Christine Anderson

Robin Gyimesi

Catherine (Cat) Ladouceur

Kim Kirby

Jennifer (Jen) Quinn

Alexis Reid

Stephanie (Steph) Wilson

4. Review of Minutes from AGM 2022

Denise Bogart read out the highlights of last year's AGM minutes: 30 ladies were in attendance; there were requests to order more equipment and first aid kits and that happened; there was not much fundraising; the playoff committee needed to meet to revisit rules; more communication needed to happen around expectations of playoffs; looked into getting more umpires and were able to attain more; made the change to play only Mondays or Tuesdays, with Thursday being available for rainouts only; supply chain issue with jerseys; returned to having back-to-back games to help with spare issue; and constitution must be revised. Denise asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Approval of 2022 AGM minutes

Moved by Kim Bond

Seconded by Aline Lafrance

5. Financial Report

Liz Warren presented the 2023 financial report. Liz noted that at the beginning of the year, the budget was going to be tight. However, at the end of the season, the league is still up, but there is not a lot of additional funds. For next year, there is roughly \$1,100.

Fundraising efforts were conducted at both tournaments: 50/50 in May, and the bat draw and square game in September. There were also a few fundraising events hosted throughout the off-season. Always looking for more fundraising opportunities. Kim Kirby and Christine Anderson supported these efforts and their support was much appreciated.

At the Spring tournament, there was not enough pizza ordered, so more pizza needed to be purchased. This is something the Tournament Committee is aware of for next year. Executives will also look into alternative document-sharing platforms to see which one is the most economical. Money was made from the banquet, which is the first time that has ever happened.

6. Committee Reports

- **Equipment and Rules:** Steph Wilson provided update. The committee has reviewed the constitution, created some annexes and made some edits. The committee needs to have meetings outside of executive meetings because there is not enough time. Need more volunteers for this committee.
- **Tournament:** Alexis Reid provided update. For the Spring tournament, the wrong amount of pizza was ordered. For the Fall tournament, the correct amount was ordered. The Food Truck service enjoyed coming and would like to come back. They could even do both Saturday and Sunday. Also, need more volunteers for this committee.
- **Playoffs:** Aline Lafrance provided update. This committee had yet to meet up. However, this group was in charge of hiring ump's and acquiring the field, and that is a process.
- **Fundraising:** Kim Kirby provided update. Need way more people to help support this effort. Fundraising started in January and led into the ball season. It is important to see what our bare minimum fundraising goals are so we can work towards them and surpass them. Companies typically are generous with sponsorship between January and March. The committee can look into doing online raffles and 50/50s.
- **Year-End Banquet and Awards:** Christine Anderson provided update. This is the first year the banquet has made money. First year there was a sponsor for the banquet, and it worked out well. The Wine Cork Pull was successful.

7. President/Vice-President Updates

Aline Lafrance provided update. At draft time 2023, there were sixteen (16) pitchers and twenty (20) people on the waitlist. The first two (2) weeks of the season were lost due to fields not being ready. There were not as many rainouts as last year, but there were a few in August. The Executive heard that people didn't want to commit to three (3) possible days of ball, so the schedule was changed to only play Mondays and Tuesdays and dropped Mondays of the long weekends. The long weekend Mondays may need to be rethought. Left Thursdays only for rainouts.

When there were back-to-back games, this helped with securing umpires, as they were more likely to pick up games when they were able to work two, and it is also cheaper this way. There was an umpire coordinator this year who worked with Aline to assign games. They were very open to

feedback. If players have an issue with an umpire, this should be brought to Aline's attention so she can sort it out.

Players also need to communicate with their respective captains if they are having issues. Once the issue has been discussed, and if extra support is needed, then bring it to the attention of the Executives.

There is a need for more pitchers and catchers. There is a desire to recruit more people so we can have ideally ten (10) teams. Having nine (9) teams is very difficult to coordinate logistically.

There is also a need to have more fundraising efforts. This means there is also a need for more people to volunteer and help out with the committees. The committees do not just have to be the Executive and/or captains.

There is continuous work to have better lines of communication and transparency.

Reviewed the 2023 Year-End Survey results. There was positive feedback, things to improve on, and additional comments. The survey synopsis will be sent out with AGM minutes and slides.

8. Open Floor

Aline Lafrance opened the floor for general discussion. She reminded folks to be respectful. To share thoughts, questions, and/or opinions, it was suggested that people raise their hands, and they will be called upon.

Taylor Albert noted that if there was a need to help with the Facebook page, she could help support this initiative.

Steph Wilson noted that Rules and Recruiting can be one committee.

Steph Brousseau noted that there are concerns about playing in a recreational, competitive league and not having enough catchers who can call a game. This is because if a pitcher is pitching quite fast when the ball is hit, it can come and hurt players in the field. Suggests doing skills clinics in the off-season to help people practice.

Steph Wilson says that from a recruiting perspective, the committee recruits whoever wants to come and play. The league does not want to discourage catchers who do not always call the game to not come and sign up. What can happen is catchers and pitchers can work with each other and communicate their needs. There can also be more conversations with umpires to have more fair strike zones. This can also support keeping the game safe.

Liz Warren said the league can look into raising money to support clinics. The league is competitive but players also need to help each other out.

Bani Ahara noted that the catcher has a job to do, but so does the pitcher. The pitcher needs to be accurate with their pitches and communicate needs.

Taylor Albert mentioned that every time Aline spoke to an umpire, it did help. It is frustrating when the strike zone is bad, but when it is consistent for both teams, that is better than nothing.

Kim Myles inquired about recruiting practices. She mentioned that if we are only asking for certain skill levels, we are only going to attract some players, which isn't what this league is about. The league doesn't want to drive people away from playing, even if they are new to the sport or haven't played in many years.

Steph Wilson informed attendees that recruitment is through word of mouth, Facebook posts, and sharing with other ball leagues.

Jaime Carruthers advised that we connect with the Stittsville 56ers to share with ladies who are aging out of their league.

Sloane Emmerson said that many times players are being recruited by families. Suggested that the League uses Instagram to attract younger players.

Jodi Sullivan advised that the League encourage youth and different playing abilities to grow the league. There needs to be balance. Some younger players showed up to play for a season and didn't return because of attitudes held towards younger players.

Bani Ahara also reminded attendees that the older players need to be respected as well. The League shouldn't be pushing older players out.

Robin Gyimesi felt strongly that there needs to be firm repercussions for people who bully others in the league. There is a constitution and a mission statement, and yet, the league does not put it into practice when it comes to disciplining. There needs to be conflict resolution. Executives and captains should also be held to a higher standard of the code.

Christine Anderson mentioned that there is a code of conduct we all sign when we join the league. We need to be reminded of the code more frequently and practice the code as well.

Mandy Moskal reminded folx that captains need to communicate this to their players and be leaders of the code.

Aline Lafrance needs to be informed of these issues. Every issue will be dealt with if it is brought to her attention. Communication is very important in these instances. The Executive team will enforce the constitution.

Alexis Reid brought up that years ago, there used to be issues in the league with inappropriate behaviour but there were enforcement protocols, and that prevented people from being unkind to one another. Recommended that the league revisit those practices.

Pina Kelly mentioned that the diamonds were not properly groomed this year. Liz Warren was informed that the City of Ottawa hardly plowed the fields this year when they were supposed to. The League will be watching this closely next year.

Taylor Albert suggested using the Carp ball diamonds. Mindful of the fact that the League wants to support the Kanata Sports Club.

Jodi Sullivan also mentioned it is important for mothers and daughters to play together. Aline Lafrance and Kim Bond both commented on the fact that there are a lot of requests to be on the same. Captains are made aware of these requests when the draft is on, and they try their best to make sure that people can be accommodated.

9. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Moved by Aline Lafrance

Seconded by Christine Anderson

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