

Victoria All Fun Slo-Pitch – Executive Meeting, January 17, 2018

In attendance: Neal Johnson – President/Rules; John Paquin – Vice President; Janet Fraser – Scheduling/Fields; Karen Hoban – Treasurer; Fay Cahoon – Tournament Coordinator; Eric Wright – Member at Large; Tom Arlidge – Member at Large

Absent: Terry Whitney – Secretary; Don White – Member at Large

1. Annual General Meeting

- Fay has booked the upstairs boardroom at the Pro-Pat Legion (411 Gorge Road East) – same location as last year.
- Date: **Friday, March 2, 2018**
- Originally booked for 5:30pm, but after discussion decision made to change start time to **6:00pm**.
- **Janet** to update website with new time, **Fay** to inform Legion of change in start time.

2. Financial Report

- Current account balance: \$8189.36.
- \$1245.80 surplus for 2017 season.
 - Booked fewer fields than budgeted for, Insurance less than previous year, no charge for AGM (due to clerical error by Legion), toilets for year-end less than budgeted for, no miscellaneous expenses.
- Keeping league fees constant (\$775/team) and extrapolating numbers from previous years, predict \$600+ net income for 2018 season.

3. Fields

- Likely to need 10 fields (20 teams).
- Costs?
 - SD61 website indicates cost is \$31.25/hr, Karen used this rate and Janet's field requests to calculate field cost for budget (\$11,812.50).
 - **Janet/Neal** to contact district to request that the rate remain the same all season like last year instead of receiving an increased rate in July.
 - Traditionally have booked the fields for 2hrs (6:00-8:00pm). Is it possible to reduce the booking to 1.5hrs per night (6:00-7:30pm)? **Janet** to inquire.
 - Expect District of Saanich rates to remain constant.

4. Teams

- Expect 20 teams.
- Have already had inquiries from 3 new teams, two seem keen.

- \$100 deposit due by **February 23, 2018**.
- Keep league fees constant at \$775 per team, use some of the surplus to give perks to teams (*see item #7 below*).

5. Executive

- All present agreed to remain in current positions.
- Neal asked if there is a need to redefine any of the roles. Everyone agreed the current descriptions seem good.
- Neal suggested creating a new position of “Garbage & Recycling Coordinator” – Average Joes have volunteered to look after this at tournaments every year, but don’t get anything in return. If an executive position, would at least get dessert!
 - Will bring this up at AGM.

6. Rules

- Age of participants? Should minors be allowed to play?
 - Karen to check insurance policy (doesn’t cover injuries to players but may have statement that coverage is for adult ball).
 - School District contract indicates that rental is for adult players.
 - Website says league is for players 18+.
 - All agree that if executive says that players must be 18+, have to trust that teams will abide.

7. Helmets

- In response to well publicized 2017 death of a player after being hit in the head by a ball (in another league), many leagues have adopted mandatory helmet rules. Discussion on how best to implement such a rule in our league.
 - Make a motion re: helmet use at AGM? Open the floor for discussion?
 - Neal feels we must let the teams vote.
 - John questioned why we could not just make an executive decision.
 - Three options on helmet policy:
 - Status quo – not required, up to individual players to decide if they want to wear a helmet.
 - Optional – all teams must have helmets available for players who choose to wear one.
 - Mandatory – all batters/runners must wear a helmet.
- Neal suggested using some of the League’s surplus funds to make a bulk purchase of helmets to provide a couple of helmets per team (one time deal). Neal to check pricing at various retailers. Estimate cost to be \$1300.
- Teams will require at least 4 helmets for batters/runners
 - If required for batting only, would be a lot of time spent running helmets from field to dugouts.

- **“The executive committee is in support of a motion that it be mandatory for SPN approved helmets to be worn by all players batting and running bases.”** *Motion put forward by Neal, seconded by John.*

8. Societies Act

- Karen related how an acquaintance in another league indicated that she and another of their league’s executive were possibly being sued by a player injured in their year-end tournament. Had the league been registered as a society, individuals on the executive could not be sued.
- No one on the current executive aware of whether our league is registered as a society or not.
- No one on the current executive knows what the league was previously called.
- Janet to check to see if our league has ever registered and to find out what is involved with registering as a society.
- Karen to follow up with acquaintance to see if our league can learn anything from their experience to protect ourselves from a similar occurrence.

9. Issues from 2017 Season

- Fields
 - Field #2 at Lansdowne not mowed prior to tournament.
 - Better field maintenance could help reduce injuries.
 - Neal indicated not much in school budgets for this.
 - Janet to talk to district and will relay results at AGM.
- Behaviour
 - No incidents last year.

10. Balls

- Tom suggested adopting a policy of providing 6 balls to each new team to ensure that they have the proper type.
- Neal also suggested that could provide ½ doz balls to each team to use some of the surplus funds.
- Estimate cost of 10 doz ball to be \$700.

11. Insurance

- Keep the same.
- If include player liability, will require team rosters and signatures prior to the start of the season, does not allow for spares later in season.

12. Code of Conduct

- Keep the same – good reminder of league expectations.
- Go over the Code of Conduct at the AGM and remind team representatives that the information needs to be passed on to all players on the team, not just signed by the reps.
- When Janet sends out the schedules, will attach the Code of Conduct so that all players get it.

13. Trophies

- No cost in 2017 (received a “favour”).
- ~\$7 per trophy for engraving.
- Usually get them back at the AGM.