

MANITOBA SENIOR SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT LEAGUE

2016 ANNUAL MEETING, WINNIPEG

5 OCTOBER 2016

Teams in attendance were: Barton's Bunch, Charleswood Hawks, Charleswood Prime Times, Dauphin MC's, Eastman, Flashback 55's, Flashback Stealers, Flashback 80's, Manitoba 55+ Classics, Portage Agri-Sales, St. James Ichabods, Tri-Clad Design, Westlake Brewers, Winnipeg South Bees and EFC.

Executive members were: Les Newman, Penny Flock, Ross MacIver, Fred Bobrowski, Fred Spiring, Orest Strzelbicki and Sig Schroeder.

Guests in attendance: Mike Fennessy (Softball Manitoba), Don Klym (Softball Manitoba) and Marshall Shuster (Blumberg Complex).

President Les Newman brought the meeting to order at 11:15 am.
A moment of silence followed for Mo Fosty (Winnipeg South Legends).

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Motion to approve the agenda: Janet Forbes

Seconded: Ernie Warkentin

Les reminded everyone that only 1 rep from each team as well as the executive is allowed to vote.

ANNUAL BUSINESS

1.) Minutes of Semi-annual meeting – April 2016-10-14

There were no questions or concerns regarding these minutes.

2.) Financial Statement – April – September 2016-10-14

Sig Schroeder gave a financial report to all. The Polar Bear Classic monies totalled \$1487.80 which Ross MacIver donated to our league. Our 2016 year end balance is \$1403.62.

REPORTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year went fairly well, there wasn't much change from last year. Our finances are healthy. The big change is our website –Hats off to FRED SPIRING for doing a stellar job! Once players get used to everything offered and are able to feel comfortable with it – they will thoroughly appreciate this new addition to our league!

Al Sharpe had some trouble getting scores from teams – he would like both the winners and losers to report to him after EVERY game. The standings will be updated every month.

SOFTBALL MANITOBA REPORT

Don Klym and Mike Fennessy thanked all for registering with SM. Don stated that after playing with our league for 2016 that he realizes how well organized and well run it is.

In the Provincials – winners were: Tri-Clad (55B) and the Southwest Maulers (55A).

The monies awarded were as follows:

If 5 teams - 1st- \$500, 2nd- \$300

If 3 or less teams - 1st - \$400

\$200 entry fee will stay \$200 in 2017.

Don asked for feedback regarding the prizes this year and the consensus was that the teams liked the money prizes!

Mike Fennessy heard more compliments than complaints about the Provincials this year. Manitoba Softball is still interested in increasing participation, they'd like more teams to enter. No other province has Senior Slopitch Provincials!

The Canada Summer Games 2017 will be using Blumberg July 28 – August 12, 2017 (approx.) so our league will play elsewhere for that time period.

If you wish to volunteer for the Games – sign up quickly as slots are filling up!

Our decisions regarding our Provincials will be taken to the Softball Manitoba AGM.

Ross MacIver asked why the canopy on diamond #6 had not been completed as the Polar Bear Classic organization had given \$2000 for this to be done. (Don Klym and Mike Fennessy went out to Blumberg during lunch break and the canopy had been done).

WINNIPEG LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Al Sharpe reported that the tournament was successful, 18 teams participated. Umpires included Charlie Kurtz and volunteers from Tri-Clad (host team) and others. Teams were very pleased with the umpiring!

Most teams liked Blumberg as the location, however the prizes (Home Run Sports dollars) were not as well received.

Comments regarding the Blumberg Complex should be directed to MSSTL and then forwarded to Softball Manitoba.

RULES COMMITTEE and UMPIRES

Much discussion about the umpires – not coming out from behind plate, perhaps there aren't many quality umpires available during the day, self-umpiring, using some players as umpires and paying them, etc. etc. The people felt that umpires like Rick Frost and Charlie Kurtz should be umpiring at all games, as they always come out from behind the plate. Some of the board members to meet with Henry Rosentreter (in charge of our umpires) at a later as Henry is not here.

There were rule change suggestions submitted by Henry. Some time was spent on discussions about these proposed MSSTL rule changes for 2017 before it was suggested that we table these until Henry Rosentreter could be available to explain his proposals.

2017 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Les Newman mentioned that there were some contact changes and to let him know of any tournament changes to the tentative tournament schedule for 2017.

BINGO and 50/50 REPORT

Orest Strzelbicki reported that the Flashback Stealers and the Flashback 70+s did the bingo this summer.

Next year (2017) teams will be the Flashback 55's and Prime Time.

Goldeyes 50/50

Teams were Selkirk, Tri-Clad and West Kildonan Classics. Selkirk's game was rained out so they will be put back at the top of the list for 2017.

2017 – Selkirk, Winnipeg South Bees and Winnipeg South Legends.

Don Klym reported that the performance bond has been raised from \$250 to \$1000 because we are on probation (another senior slopitch league did not meet their obligations). The performance bond will not be cashed unless there is a problem.

WINNIPEG LEAGUE SCHEDULING REPORT

Les Newman reported that the website was working well.

Divisions will be determined in the spring.

Double-headers have been relatively well accepted and will continue.

A few teams did go out to play in Portage and Steinbach as part of the schedule and it would be nice if more chose to do this. It is only for 1 day in the regular schedule.

Discussion as to whether there should be a penalty when a team decides to cancel at the last minute will be held at the spring meeting.

A comment was made regarding a need for a better balance to ensure that teams in the same division play each other more often.

The cancellation process on the website is working fairly well – some teams have “homework” to do as to how this works. The cancelled games are in **YELLOW** on the website. It is the responsibility of team contacts to inform their players about the website!

NEW BUSINESS

Teams are to contact Les Newman if they're interested in hosting the 2017 Winnipeg League Tournament.

Fred Spiring spoke about the ALCOA Recommendations. He had very little feedback about the self-seeding process but everything seemed to go well. The same format will be continued next year. Consolation plaques will be given out next year.

PROVINCIALS

Discussion ensued as to ways of increasing participation at the Provincials next year and years to come.

Fred Spiring proposed that Provincials be mandatory, that registration include league play and Provincials.

Increase of teams participating would hopefully eliminate some teams losing all their games.

Don Klym reminded everyone that Manitoba is the ONLY province to have Senior Slopitch Provincials!

Many teams haven't gone to Provincials for years because some teams "stack" their rosters for the Provincials. Perhaps SEEDING would ensure more teams to enter the Provincials. Rosters would have to be finalized before seeding. A date would have to be set.

The pick-up rule does not apply to rural teams.

Perhaps extend the Provincials to 3 days.

Fred Spiring felt having attractive Provincials would be a great way to conclude the season having both in-town and out-of-town teams getting together!

TEAM CONTACTS are to take this info back to your teams so a decision can be made at the spring meeting!

Player INSURANCE – a player currently is not covered if he/she is new that year as the previous year's insurance covers up to June 15, therefore there's a gap between the start of the year and June 15.

Solution – At the start of the season, names of new players are to be given Fred Bobrowski. Fred will contact Manitoba Softball to cover these new unregistered players for that 6 week period.

Lorne Colpitts suggested that the top 8 teams play division 1 rules in the Provincials. (10 players, touch bases, etc.)

CANCELLATION POLICY to be discussed at the spring meeting.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Penny Flock is resigning as Secretary.

President – Les Newman

Vice president – Fred Spiring

Secretary – TBD

Treasurer – Sig Schroeder

Members at Large – Ross MacIver, Ted Knight, Orest Strzelbicki.

Fred Bobrowski moved to accept the above slate of officers.
Seconded by Chuck Biggs ~ Carried.

Janet Forbes thanked the executive for all the work they do and have done for the league.
“very much appreciated”!

Les gave a special thank you to Fred Spiring for his dedicated and professional work he has done with setting up our website and for scheduling assistance!

Next meeting is tentatively

APRIL 19, 2017 at ANAVETS #28311am.

Meeting adjourned by Gary Johnson.