

Victoria Women's Fastball League

2009 AGM

January 26, 2009 at 7pm

Cordova Bay Clubhouse

Executive present:

President, Dawn Evans

Secretary, Teresa Bubela

Tournament Director, Chelsey Oman

Treasurer, Brenda Parke

Statistician, Candace Anderson

Registrar, Theresa Hardy

Regrets:

Vice-President, Val Przybysz

Also present:

Tom Turner, Umpire's Association

Lori Skinner, Softball BC

League Attendance:

All 2008 teams were represented

Call to Order

Dawn Evans brought the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Introductions and Welcome

- Dawn welcomed everyone to the AGM and commends those who came out to represent their teams, as there was a great turnout

Congratulations

- Dawn congratulated those players recently engaged or expecting.
- Five teams from the league competed in Provincials this summer: Cordova Bay Panthers (Senior D); View Royal Heat, Wild and Diamond Fusion (Senior C); SV Unit (Junior C). Congrats to SV Unit for winning the Gold medal; CB Panthers for the Silver medal, and Diamond Fusion for placing just off the podium (4th).

Old Business

Approval of Minutes/Agenda

- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Brooke McLeod (Sliders) and seconded by Kris Olson (Wild).
- Minutes of 2008 AGM were presented and approved (1st Chelsea Chang, CB Panthers; 2nd Sharon Stewart, Reds).

Statistician's Report

- Candace congratulated the teams that finished top three in the league standings (1st: CB Panthers, 2nd: Wild; 3rd: Heat) and the teams that won Playoffs (Heat), the Sue B Tournament (Wild) and the Beer Round (A's). Also congrats to the most spirited team, the Brewers.

Financials

Brenda presents the prepared Financials for 2008; the League is in the black.

- A question from the floor re:: the cost of ice—it wasn't donated this year but we will try to change that this season.
- A question from the floor re:: fields—the cost of fields was higher as we needed more fields with more teams competing. Bullen was needed two nights, and it is one of the costlier fields; but we also got rid of NW Glasgow, which we didn't like.
- It was also noted that more money was spent on awards due to the number of teams
- Diamond Fusion commented favorably on the awards this year
- 50/50 was a big success
- Motion to approve the financial statements: Jo Irvine; 2nd: Sophie LeBlanc. Carried.

New Business

Season Schedule

Dawn acknowledged that there were issues with the schedule this past season, due in part to the number of teams (13), lack of rainout make-up games, and number of forfeits.

- The executive did their best to overcome these challenges but there are still those who are unhappy with the outcome.
- Diamond Fusion will be away for the start of the season (April 18-May3) and the league will do its best to accommodate their absence as we go into the new season. The team proposes to either schedule double-headers to make up for missed games, or have their bys fall at the start of the season?
- Discussion begins regarding the playoffs and whether or not we should keep to the constitution (pros and cons)
 - Increased number of teams has a big effect on playoffs
 - Some suggestion that we keep to the constitution (top 4) as it encourages teams to play hard from the outset, and making the playoffs is a bigger deal
 - Point is raised that whether it's top 4 or top 6, it's just not fun with the round robin format. Many feel that no matter what is decided, the double-knockout format is preferable to most teams.
 - Ken (Heat) suggests that because there are 5 or 6 really competitive teams in the league at this point, the number 5 and 6 teams would be less happy playing in the consolation round and therefore advocates for top 6.
 - The main problem with the top 6 format is that with the current number of days allocated for playoffs, each team is only guaranteed two games.
 - Dawn asserts that with more than 10 teams there is almost no chance everyone will get the chance to play everyone else twice.
 - With 10 teams we need at least 18 nights of regular season to play everyone twice; 12 teams it's 23 nights; 14 teams it's 26 nights (not including playoffs)
 - We need at least 5-6 nights for playoffs with more than 10 teams

- There have never been this many rainouts and we need to keep this in mind
- **Motion from the floor (Diamond Fusion):** change the constitution to allow for top 6 in the playoffs.
- Continued discussion following this motion: should we have a two-tiered league? Some say yes as it would allow the more competitive teams to challenge each other; others are adamant that the league is not that type of league and all teams benefit from playing each other.
- Some discussion about a possible financial penalty for teams that forfeit games without sufficient notice, as there is not only a cost to the league (fields and umpires) but a disruption to the standings when teams get ahead on 'wins' that are actually forfeits.
- Conversation is steered back to the Diamond Fusion's motion: some teams object and ask that the constitution not be changed.
- Dawn reminds everyone that the original intent behind top 4 only was that all the other teams watched the playoffs and cheered the teams on.
- Debated follows as to whether or not a vote is required to bring the motion to the EGM; it is not, and in the interest of bringing as few motions to the floor as possible, the membership present decide that the following motions will be noted prior to the EGM for the membership to address and vote on at that time. **The motions are as follows:**
 - Motion #1: 12 or more teams and we go to top 6 format in playoffs (11 teams or less and we keep to top 4)
 - Motion #2: 14 teams or more and we got to top 6 format (otherwise top 4 per constitution)
 - Also an option: we keep to the constitution (top 4) no matter what

Teams

- Brewers, Pirates and W3 may be short players and potentially considering merging with other teams.
- Misfits aren't coming back so there are some players here that could be picked up
- Rumors that another CB team may join are unlikely as there is no firm commitment yet from the girls.

Tentative Dates

- At the moment it looks like we have at least 12 teams, which means we will not have enough evenings to play.
- Suggestion from the floor and the exec that we start the season two weeks sooner in April
- The Ice Breaker would be earlier as well as a result
- There is also the possibility of playing on the Monday evenings of long weekends or on some Tuesdays or Thursdays as needed, although we can't get any city fields on those days.
- A question from the floor: would there be advance notice of any changes to the usual Monday/Wednesday schedule? Yes, absolutely—the additional dates would be known from the start of the season
- **Proposed Ice Breaker dates: April 18-19th**
- **Proposed Sue B tourney dates: July 25th-26th**

New Players

- There have been some new players inquiring about the league so Dawn asks that anyone who needs players let her know ASAP.

Umpires

Tom Turner, president of the Umpire's Association, addressed the membership present

- Stumpy may be our allocator this year (TBC)
- We play with one umpire until playoffs
- Tom thinks the rates have not changed since last year, but will confirm. We will receive a letter if they have gone up.
- Some discussion about forfeited games and the amount of notice required for umpires: Tom feels 24 hours notice would be comfortable

Softball BC

Lori Skinner, Softball BC District Coordinator, addresses the group

- She congratulates all the teams that went to provincials, especially those who played in Senior Cs. The CB Panthers must move up to Senior C this year and SV Unit must move to Junior B.
- She lists several changes that affect our teams:
 - Teams who move up **MUST** go to provincials and compete or they cannot move down a division until they do.
 - Each player must play at least 4 games with their team before provincials if listed on official team roster as of June 1st. Those concerned about player eligibility can appeal to the senior director.
 - Double bases are mandatory for all provincials
 - There is no more round robin in provincials; it's now a modified double knockout with a three-game guarantee
 - There is a new minor coordinator (Joe Sparrow). It has been tough to coordinate minor pick-ups in past years so hopefully this won't be an issue.
 - Insurance costs have gone up: \$12/team and \$25 per player (including coach)
 - Membership fees are still \$10
 - Coaches must now have Level 2, and Level 2 holders must have a refresher course. Coaches have 3 years to comply.
 - Provincials: intent to enter must be submitted by June 15th (\$375), June 1st for Westerns (\$500). Teams competing in Westerns must first compete in provincials.
 - Senior D Provincials: August 7-9 at Hyacinth Park (Victoria)
Senior C Provincials: July 25-26th, Sicamous
Junior B Provincials: July 3-5th Ridge/Meadows
Masters: Westerns are in Kamloops August 6-9th

League Fees

- Fees will stay the same as last year (\$675)

Field Report

- Applications were due July 31st and we applied for all the same fields as last year
- Two fields in Saanich: View Royal (2 diamonds) and Cordova Bay (Wed, maybe 2 fields)
- Esquimalt: Bullen Park (2)

- Cedar Hill: TBC
- Strawberry Vale: TBC, we may get one for Monday
- Gordon Head: can we get the Majestic field?
- Hyacinth: could we ask for another field from them?
- We are approaching Bullen/Esquimalt to improve fields
- We are petitioning to use fields on Tuesday May 19th and Thursday July 2nd
- We also have Central on Wednesdays

Golf Tourney

- It was a lot of fun last year, great food.
- Organizers will take it on again this year.

Tourneys

- We can't make an Invitational tourney work, logistically
- Chelsey thinks we could do the GTKY tourney every 2nd year and get on the minor coaches sooner about it.

Website

- Sophie has done a number of updates
- She invites us to submit write-ups and photos for the About page
- Send any text or pictures to Sophie (webmaster)

Final points

- Concerning Diamond Fusion being away; consensus is that we will do our best to accommodate their travel plans.
- Intent to enter must be declared by March 15th

Election of Executive

- Chelsey is stepping down as Tournament Director. Dawn, Candace, Brenda, Teresa, Theresa are staying but are willing to switch roles.
- Dawn (President) has asked to step down and Val (Vice President) has offered to move up. In absentia, Val is voted in as President.
- Dawn has expressed an interest in Statistician, and Teresa is willing to move up to Vice President if anyone is willing to join the Executive as Secretary.
- Liane Cownden volunteers to take on the role of Secretary and is voted to this position.
- Brenda will stay on as Treasurer
- Candace will now be Tournament Director
- Theresa will continue as Registrar

With no further business the meeting is adjourned at 8:56.