**Black Gold League AGM**

**Morinville Room, Serves Place, St.Albert**

**May 13, 2017 @ 9am**

Attendance: Philip Bloomfield (SPK), Carolyn Normand (RDR), Jason Sweet (HIN), Karol Warner (LAC), Jim Cullihall (FMC), Sarah Stengel (STA), Rev Darda (STA), Paulette Williams (FMC), Leanne Couves (SGV), Krista Wood (SGV), Jackie Shimko (BMT/BGL), Kara Watson (FSK), Kathleen Ryan (ERC), Kyley Belton (PEM), Shenif Lalji (EFCLRA), Linsey Ezekiel (PEM), Shauna Ahlquist (LAC), Bob Hnatko (PEM), Darcy Brown (BGL), Pam Horn (LED), Chelsea Cameron (LED), Shannon Langstrom (EFCLRA), Marcie Arnold (EFCLRA), Christine Kearney (ERC), Rhonda Kew (BGL), Rob Wasylyniuk (Z2AA), Josh Fort (Z2AA), Darryl Pidirniak (Z5AA), Kevin Hickey (Z5AA), Brian Hoyano (BGL), Janice Tymkow (BGL), Sandra Fenton (BGL)

1. **Call to order**

Brian called to order at 9:36am

1. **Welcome Introductions**
2. **Additions to the agenda**

Motion to adopt agenda: Sara /SARA

Second: Christine/ERC

AIF, Carried

1. **Review of 2016 BGL AGM minutes**

Motion to adopt AGM minutes: Phil/SPK

Second: Pam/LED

AIF, carried

1. **First call for nominations**

Everyone else has agreed to stay in their positions except Darcy/VP. He has enjoyed his time with ringette but his daughter will not be playing this season, so he will step down.

1st call for VP. Brief description of duties given.

No nominations

1. **Executive Reports**

**President –** Brian Hoyano

* This was my first year as President of Black Gold League after three years as an association BGL rep. It has been a pleasure working with a strong and very knowledgeable executive group this season. I will be staying on for another year.
* This season we reviewed and approved a significant update to BGL’s Operations Manual, including Fees and Fines, Repooling, Blackouts, Reschedules, Double Headers, and Website Score Reporting.
* Ft. McMurray continued play in BGL following the devastating fire which left their participation up in the air until just before the season. FMRA and BGL worked together to make travel to Ft.Mac easier for teams by providing joint travel subsidies to help offset costs.
* This was the first year of using Universal Athlete Assessment scoring to tier teams for league play in U10-U14.
  + Schedule creation proved challenging due to hard deadlines required for associations to have evaluations completed.
  + Compressed evaluation schedule meant having U10 teams formed earlier than normal, even though league play would not have to start until mid-October.
  + Resulting team distribution as a result of RAB UAA scoring seemed to be more equitable than ever before (i.e. closer to what would be expected based on player population)
  + Divisional competitiveness seemed better than in previous seasons (especially U10-S3)
  + Team movement at repooling was no worse than in previous seasons
  + It seems like it has proven to be a worthwhile investment.
  + Could it be a benefit at U16/U19?
* First Year of BGL hosting a U14AA Division – separate from U16A. BGL teams proved competitive against teams from 123 which still played against 16A teams in league play.
* BGL and 123 League are continuing to work together on timelines and policies, with one goal of having a common Advance/Retreat/Repooling policy for the coming season. This may eliminate the need for a Competitions Committee, and provide clarity on what division teams will play for the remainder of the season before Christmas.
* Thank you to the executive and all associations for their hard work in putting on another successful season!

**Vice President – Darcy Brown** There were fewer reschedules, and no fines given to Associations and only 4 warning letters sent out. Warnings were for Critical Date deadlines. There was one coach suspension, for penalty minutes. Overall a great year.

**Scheduler – Sandra Fenton** Stats reporting on the website went smoother than last year. AA blackout helped eliminate reschedules. There were fewer blackout requests. BO restrictions, weather and education all helped contribute to fewer reschedules. Terri/NARRA requested no U19AA games during the weekend of Wood tournament. RAB requested BO for U19 level 2 courses, for officials.

**Webmaster/Statistician – Rhonda Kew –** Webpage still hosted by RAMP. There were 160 games reschedule submissions, which was less than last year. No teams exceeded the 3 reschedule maximum. It was the first year to enter teams own info, there were a few hiccups but this should improve with time. Associations were encouraged to get information in, in a timely manner and it was used as a pilot year so there was some forgiveness there. Next season, warnings and fines will be given if and when needed. U10 playoff schedules and games all went smoothly. FSK requests that next season the schedulers be notified, as well as managers.

**Treasurer –** **Jackie Shimko** - financial report handed out. Current balance $24734. Increase in performance bonds makes that look healthy. Accounts receivable outstanding for U10 play downs. Still need to get paid from: HIN, LAC, LED, PEM, RDR, SPK – need to be paid up ASAP. Increase of $9200 in league fees, $8000 of that went to FMC travel (16 teams @ $500 each, to FMC). Profit of $3234.92 (from $1377 last year) due to increase in league fees. No AWG or donations this year and meeting costs were down. Leanne Couves – SGRA to review financials.

Motion to accept 2016/17 financial report: Rhonda/BGL

Second: Rev/SARA

AIF, Carried

1. **Coffee Break 10:20am**

**Reconvene 10:44am**

1. **2016/2017 policy review report**

A committee of 5 has reviewed the policies and made some significant changes this past season. They will review again in the next few weeks and bring to the august meeting.

Hinton wishes to have travel policy reviewed again, as their double headers were heavily affected last season. Jason and Kathleen will correspond and come up with a plan to present at the August meeting.

There was an minor officials (timekeeper box) change, that now require home and away teams to each have minor officials, for every game. Associations are required to make sure teams are aware of the change.

Continual question of whether or not U14 games will run 18min or 23min periods, depending on ice provided. Recommendation was made to use ‘left over’ ice however your home team wishes, once game is finished. Coaches and Refs to be educated, that Refs are required to stay for duration of game. They are paid per game, no on the time.

Motion that U14A and lower are to play 18min periods regardless of ice time slot: Jim/FMC

Second: Jason Sweet/HIN

1. opposed: Darcy/BGL

Carried

Discussion about possibility of league championship for over U10. If bottom/gold teams don’t make provincials, their season could be over in he beginning of February. Needs to be a mandate of the league, to provide competition. Much discussion, comments and concerns regarding: giving divisions something to play towards, the need to compete for ice/Refs, league championships during provincial play, best of three playoffs vs double elimination, weekday ice being used for games, banner for top teams, competition for all pools in every division. To be discussed and brought forward to August meeting.

U19B – Associations need to look at their structure and see how it’s working/not working. Discussion around 70/30 (games/practice) structure and teams complying to that ratio. Discussion about adding games to the 1st and 2nd sessions, to increase league games to 20. To be brought up at August meeting.

**9. NARRA update -** Terri Schade - President & Assignor (NARRA) **\*Terri absent at AGM – letter sent in her absence\***

Please be advised that NARRA will be implementing 3 changes to our schedule of charges for next season:

1)      Open AA game fee will increase from $40 to $45 per official

2)      Assigning fee will increase from $5.00 to $7.00 per game

3)      Assigning and game fees will be applied to games cancelled within 48 hours of game time (previously 36 hours)

With regards to the assigning fee, it has not increased since NARRA was founded in 2006 and the cost of doing business has increased significantly over the past couple of years.  Given the high exchange rate for the US dollar as well as an increase in officials joining NARRA (Arbiter fee is primarily based on the number of users) the cost has increased from $987.72 in 2014-15 to $1,365.95 in 2016-17.  We are now paying the majority of our officials via e-transfer which has resulted in a significant increase in our bank fees (we now have a small business account which is somewhat offset with a reduction in cheques and office supplies but not completely).

From the meeting – discussion that NARRA wants to be used for exhibition games as well as league games. Concerns/comments brought up about some of the current reffing capabilities. Kathleen to go ahead and compile a letter, from the BGL membership, to present to RAB (Lauren) and NARRA (Terri). Email to go out to BGL membership, requesting that Refs concerns/comments be directed to Kathleen by the end of May, so she can include in the letter.

**14. AA play in BGL (discussion moved up in agenda, as Z2 arrived from Calgary area)**

AA in BGL last year,BGL agreed to schedule again for this year. 12 game approach was good. Reduced schedule in league play was positive and playing U14AA only was well received. U16A enjoyed not playing U14AA teams. Exhibition games are always a good idea if teams wish to play against other divisions.

There was consensus among the AA clubs that U14AA would continue to play in their own division, not ‘up’ in U16A.

U16AA – discussion around SGV U16A being dominant last season in their division, and against a U16AA team. SGV very likely to have a U16AA team for 2017-18. STA, SPK, EDM, Z5, SGV, Central are open to playing in their own division not up to U19A.

No motions required to continue in this fashion in BGL. (Would need approval to play ‘up’.

Zone 2 AA – they feel that U16AA playing in U16AA is best for players. 123 league still places U16AA in the U19A division. Z2 discussed possibility of playing in BGL U16AA division, instead of their current U19A.

Province wide AA league discussion, including lengthy bus rides/lengthy travel a concern. Discussion about a 16 game schedule, where each team from the north would go to Z2 once, with the option to play central on their way home. Z2 envisions (and is ok with) coming up to the north multiple times. Discussion about identifying what the challenges are but being open to the concept of province wide AA competition. Much discussion still needed, as Calgary knows that Z2 came to BGL for discussion but there has not been a formal discussion with Calgary. Any changes to league/provincial structure, will need to be a gradual transition.

**Lunch break 12:35-1:07pm (to allow for side discussions on AA topic)**

Executives will work with Z2 and distribute information to AA teams, and Z2 will take information back to Calgary. Based on the discussion, ice availability would be possible but not sure what will come from the south.  
Pilot to include hosting AA league games at non-AA tournaments. This should be helpful in promoting the elite level while allowing teams to compete at home as well.

BGL agreed to look at it more, discuss with RAB,123 and Z2 and revisit before 2017-18 season start up.

1. **Fort McMurray play within BGL review and for 2017/2018 season**

Reported having a great season. There was a concern regarding driver hours for a U16 trip where bus was used. Drivers should be educated, as to their allowable travel hours.

FMC to expect to travel the 1st weekend after repooling, to ease scheduling for travel and allow enough notice for booking a bus. FMC to confirm if their portion of the subsidy will change or not for the 2017-18 season, after their AGM on May 27th. Current policy states that ‘home ice’ is still Plamondon, so there will need to be a motion at August meeting to approve FMC home ice in FMC, if they wish to host home games there again for 2017/18 season.

BGL retreated FMC U12B team to C last season but league suspects that teams were different come playoffs due to increased availability of impact players. Rosters will be reviewed and closer scrutiny of retreats may be required at repooling.

1. **Second call for nominations**

Rhonda nominated Rev/SARA for VP

Rev declined

1. **BGL/123 league future structure**

Brian, Sandra, and Darcy (with committee) worked on common advance/retreat policy. Working to eliminate the need for competitions committee. Final Policy to be developed with RAB over summer.

Alberta Winter Game season: AA, U16A-U19B to blackout for AWG (Feb 16-18).

123 League would like to add a ‘U14C’ division, offering another division for U14 at provincials. Discussion about approaching RAB with the idea and discussion about what to call the division: U14C, U14BB etc). To be discussed and brought to August meeting. BGL U14B Gold Division would represent this “new” division.

General approval for concept from BGL members.

1. **RAB conference update**

Leanne/SGV mentioned it was a great weekend. The True Sport concept, and it’s 7 principles were reviewed (link to be emailed out to BGL membership). RAB went over the enhanced participant experience, which includes: Introduction to Sport; Pursuit of Excellence; Competitive for Life & Recreational for Life. Discussion about how to formulate collaborative groups that can compile information, to share with teams/Associations. Groups to include: Cost Analysis; Ice utilization; CTR optimization; Coaching; Officials & Athlete ratio.   
 The weekend all came back to ‘trust’, you need to be able to trust your coaches, parents, players & RAB. Plans to prepare associations for change management.

Membership in attendance were encouraged to invite RAB members, to board meetings.  
RAB has 3 vacancies for director positions, on their board.

1. **Third call for nominations**

No nominations

Will take open VP seat to August meeting and will not adjourn that meeting until seat if filled. Jackie volunteered for VP, as treasurer is simple and may be easier to fill.

Motion to move August meeting back to a Tuesday, making it Tuesday August 22nd: Janice/BGL

Second: Krista/SGV

Opposed: FMC & RDR, Carried

1. **Association Round Table**

BMT – tournament October 19-22

RDR – tournament January 5-7

SARA – Turkey Ring October 6-9, applied to host U16B provincials

PEM – NRS July 31-August 4

FSK – tournament December 1-3

LED – tournament January 11-14 \*tentative\*

FMC – tournament details unknown

EFCLRA – Silver Ring January 19-21

ERC – Wood tournament – November 24-26, applied for AA provincials, WAM boot camp August 21-24

SGV – tournament Family Day long weekend \*tentative, as they are looking at some changes\*

LAC – tournament November 17 weekend \*tentative\*

SPK – tournament December 28-30

HIN – tournament November 17-19

DVY - not in attendance

1. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 2:39pm: Jim

Second: Krista/SGV

AIF, Carried