Wetaskiwin Ball Club

Meeting Minutes: Monday, March 30, 2015

Present: Helen Bye, Damara Wolters, Stephen Hawkes, Jamie Young, Nancy Fischer, Linda Throndson, Eileen Chambers, Vanessa Crough, Jennifer St. Hilaire, Dalbert Adkins, Holly Pitcher, Lily Hebert, Trevor Bearchell, Daren Gall, John Kennedy.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:24 pm

Minutes of March 9 meeting distributed by Damara Wolters and reviewed by all. Linda Throndson moved that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Trevor Bearchell.

Treasurer - no report. Registrar still had fees at this time.

Registrar (Linda) reported that overall numbers are down from last season. She handed out the lists of registered players in each division.  Aiden Nillson was moved from the PeeWee Baseball list to the Bantam Baseball list (he had registered in the wrong age category).

Softball League Options discussion was deferred to the division reports portion of the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place on the flooding of the sea can where the club's equipment is stored. Options for raising the sea can up on 6X6's to keep it dry in the future and to allow some airflow were discussed. By the end of the discussion Cobra had been contacted by Stephen Hawkes and were confirmed to be willing and able to lift the can. Not sure if this would be a donation or if the club would be paying for this. Stephen can confirm this. Dalbert Adkins to get quote on ventilating the can.

**Learn to Play Update (Jennifer St. Hilaire):**  23 on list at time of meeting.  Zedric (24) moved to Rookie.  Down from 32 last year.  Likes to have 10 per team with 3-4 parents per team helping out.  Comment by Stephen about Beaumont using Rally Cap Program with only 6 per team for Learn to Play (63 kids in LTP program in Beaumont). St. Hilaire says equipment good, t-shirts good, baseball size good but NEED BALLS!

**U10 Girls (Dalbert Adkins):** Only 5 on list.  Dalbert will start doing phone calls to beef up the numbers.

**U12 Girls (Holly Pitcher):** Only 3-4 total so far.  Holly to start calling players to get numbers.  Other options are for girls to play baseball if not enoug girls for a team or to combine with girls from other age groups.

**U14 Girls (Lily Hebert):** Have a full competitive team.  Four girls on rec team list could either play in Camrose or join up with the U16 group which was quite small at the time of the meeting.

**U16 Girls (Trevor Bearchell):** Trevor says there are 7-8 girls committed despite only one being registered at the time of the meeting.  Plus he coukd take the 4 U14 rec players too.  He will do some phoning to confirm registration numbers.

**Rookie Baseball (Jennifer St. Hilaire):** 11 kids, any more go on waiting list unless the parent wants to coach. Rookie NEEDS a coach.

**Mosquito Baseball (Daren Gall):** AA tryouts were that night.  Looks like both teams will have 12 players.

**PeeWee Baseball (Courtenay Hughston absent):** 9 players total including Kyle Johnston (not on list). Enough for a team but could use 2 more.

**Bantam Baseball (John Kennedy):** With 2-3 boys who say they will play, depending on practices/games NOT being Tue/Thu, there WILL be a Bantam team this year with 9-10 players.

Nancy moved to extend the registration deadline to April 15th. Seconded by Trevor. Carried.

Signs around town appear to be effective for getting people to register.

Website discussion (Helen Bye): Website is deemed to be user friendly.  Board members are encouraged to check it out.  Advertising was suggested but it might be getting late to advertise in the local papers.  The suggestion was made to have an article written about ball in Wetaskiwin in the times.  Trevor to work on getting Sarah started.

Softball League Options: U10 will play in Camrose/Leduc league. U12 up in the air. Holly to call Travis to discuss. U14 league set. They will have 3 tournaments, they have the dates (hosting one (date?), June 5 in St. Albert, Jun 19 in Red Deer), league fees $1,500 due April 30th. U16 won’t be playing in a league. They will do tournaments and exhibition games.

CUB league Meeting Discussion: Wetaskiwin not hosting any CUB league events. Asked if we are interested in scheduling for Mosquito Cub League. Rookie tournament in Devon ($150 entry); Mosquito tournament is in Beaumont ($200 entry); PeeWee Tournament in Leduc ($200 entry). 1st week of CUB is May 4th (one game per team to be scheduled); Second week is May 11th (2 games per week); Week of May 23 is the double header weekend for all levels; Season has been lengthened this year. Playoffs start week of Jun 15-19th; Playoff tournament on weekend of 19-21st of June. Can have 3 overage players per team but they can’t pitch or catch (overage girls CAN pitch). Provincials for CUB league are a very good option, if we don’t have enough of our teams to go, we can create a team for provincials by combining with other towns (Devon, Millet, Leduc, Beaumont).

Equipment Discussion: Almost all levels need balls. U10 Softball needs a catcher’s mitt and 11” balls. U14 needs balls for pitching machine and regular 12” balls too. U16 needs hats (possibly, Holly to check on if they have blue hats). Rookie equipment good. Mosquito needs balls (equip still drying). PeeWee needs balls (equip still drying). Bantam needs balls. Recommendation for teams to have nets or hurricane machines for batting practice.

Diamond Discussion: Diamond requests submitted as per last year but with a Bantam Baseball team we will need to move some teams around.  The Mosquito AA team has requested Tue/Thu practices this year.  Diamond assignments to be confirmed by Helen Bye after discussion with City of Wetaskiwin.

Other Business: Eileen Chambers suggested people sign up for the scorekeeping course in Edmonton. Suggest that she and Vanessa Crough would take it for the AA team.

Umpires: We are short umpires. Suggest letting kids know to take the course. Not reimbursed for cost b/c they should make it back by umpiring. MOTION made by Linda T to reimburse new Wetaskiwin umpires for training if they come and umpire in Wetaskiwin. Seconded by Dalbert. CARRIED.

Softball and CUB Baseball require one homeplate umpire per game. List of Umpires is submitted to Baseball/Softball Alberta and they assign them for competitive leagues. We have control of CUB league umpires for home games.

April 20th 7:15 pm is the NEXT MEETING but Helen Bye has since requested moving this to TUESDAY April 21st at 7:15 at the Grant Thornton Boardroom.

April 28th is Uniform HandOut day at the Arena.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.