**GLOUCESTER-CUMBERLAND RINGETTE ASSOCIATION (GCRA)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MAY 13, 2015 7:00 PM RAY FRIEL COMPLEX**

**Present:** Anne Lester , Michael Howard, Marc D'Aoust, Heather Croatto, Pat Martin, Nathalie Altherr, Matthieu Emery, Dan Altherr, Jocelyn Chouinard, Dave Glass, Nadia Wolters, Marie Drolet, John Biro, Steve Welch, Joyce Wilson, Linda McNamara, Kim Leemhuis, Allison McKelvey, Brian Lester, Lauri Lester, Torie Billings, Jill McGowan, Natalie Cale, Brenda Gallagher, Mark Seguin, Tanya Martin, Darlene Pickup, Mike Lester, Celine Leduc, Susan Woodhouse, Jeff Beaulac.

**1.Call To Order**

Mike Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Adoption of 2014 AGM Minutes**

**Action:** Motion that the minutes of 2014 AGM be adopted – Moved by Michelle Reis and seconded by Anne Lester. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

The budget presented is not finalized as our fiscal year goes until May 31st.

Returned unused ice: Thanks to our Ice Scheduler's impeccable administration of the Association's Ice Contracts, she was able to return 189 hours of ice without any penalty. This translates into over $30,000.00 in unused budget dollars.

Cost Recovery for extra ice at Richcraft: Power Skating sessions and Skills & Drills - $12,000.00

In an effort to spend some of the association's surplus this year we; continued with goalie clinics and gave (another) extra hour of ice to each team. Teams used to get 13.5 hours of ice - they now receive 16 hrs.

Included in General Account:

Equipment Fund - generated from $50 per team bond + equipment sales and summer rentals: $6,710.

Bernie Cockburn 'On Ice' Fund: $4,193.32. The Fund covered registration fees for 3 players this season

Susan Woodhouse presented the financial statement (see attached) as of May 12, 2015

**Action:** Motion to approve the Budget/Financial Report to May 12, 2015 moved by Kim Leehmuis and Seconded by Anne Lester. **Motion** **Carried.**

**4. Executive Member’s Reports**

**4.1 President’s Report - Mike Lester**

The 2014-15 season was another successful but hectic season in our association. GCRA hosted our 40th annual tournament, hosting 94 teams plus bunnies from West Ottawa and GCRA in February. This event requires 8 to 9 months of planning and countless hours given by our amazing group of volunteers. Our tournament was again a great success due to the time and dedication of our great group. At the GCRA tournament we have been able to attract teams from all over Canada (Alberta to New Brunswick at all levels both Provincial and Regional) and year after year the feedback we receive is that our event is well run and our volunteers are helpful and very friendly which keeps these teams coming back. Our event attracts some of the top elite teams in Canada. As noticed by the standings at the National event held this year in Wood Buffalo all three medalists in the U19AA event Nepean (National Champs), Calgary and St. Albert all attended the GCRA event in February. Our event this year did generate a profit for the association. At this time I would like to put out a call for volunteers for this event to continue to be the high profile event that it has been for 40 years. I have spent the last 5 years co-chairing this tournament with Jane Farquhar and Steve Welch. We have had some new members join but have also lost some significant volunteers to the successful running of this event.

We had great successes on the ice. All of our competitive teams qualified for their Provincial events. At the AA’s in London the U19’s won sportsmanship. At the A’s in Newmarket GCRA won Silver in the U14 Jacks and the sportsmanship award in U16 McCarthy. On NCRRL Championship day both GCRA U14B teams ended up facing each other for the gold medal. GCRA’s U14C (Leslie) and U12 Blue (Leduc) team won gold and the U12 Red (Cavers) team captured the silver. At the U12 Provincial event, the GCRA Altherr team won silver in their pool.

We again had great representation at the ERRA Ringette night in November selling approximately 400 tickets to the event.

The transition of A teams into the LRQ was a great success and GCRA would like to see this partnership continue.

GCRA has a strong history in the Ringette Community we are currently the largest Association in Eastern Region. The Eastern Region Ringette Registration numbers outlined in the chart below shows GCRA had a drop of -3.2% in player registration (Per ORA/ERRA data) this season while our Region Experienced an overall growth of 0.3%. We hope and plan to see this number rise; continued growth helps keep our sport strong and our teams competitive for years to come. Large numbers also help with negotiating ice contracts with the city for us and our member Associations.

While Eastern Region registration numbers have grown consistently but not significantly over the years and we have approximately 2600 players registered in our region. While our sport is thriving thanks to the efforts of the great volunteers that we have at the association, regional and provincial levels, exploring opportunities for growth and addressing challenges is a priority. Getting more players involved at the young is an initiative that we need to address and apply resources to. Promotions, incentives etc are all ideas we need to explore.

While being largest minor ringette association in the region we have always been able to accommodate new players and have never had to tell an interested party that we were full. GCRA continues to request addition ice with the City of Ottawa allocation department to meet our growing needs at facilities such as Barrett at Ray Friel.

ERRA Registration:

*Association Registration*

**Association 07/08 08/09 09/10 10/11 11/12 12/13 13/14 14/15 %chg**

*Arnprior* 84 80 94 101 93 61 92 87 -5.4%

*Clarence/Rockland* 47 57 61 45 74 82 81 75 -7.4%

*CORA*  392 453 499 \*378 369 345 369 342 -7.3%

*GAARA*  457 463 500 \*643 684 682 678 693 +2.2%

*GCRA*  390 425 424 441 436 381 411 398 -3.2%

*Kingston* 97 132 109 91 93 112 115 90 -21.7%

*Metcalfe* 174 182 189 165 147 151 141 163 +15.6%

*Nepean*  291 322 377 361 326 319 317 340 +7.3%

*UOV*  104 101 98 105 105 85 80 104 +30.0%

*WORA*  273 279 271 292 320 293 309 309 NC

Region Total 2,309 2,494 2,622 2,622 2,647 2,511 2,593 2,601 +0.3%

We have already submitted our ice requests for next playing season as well as our tournament (Booked for February 4th to 7th 2016) to the city allocation department as they are due each April. We have asked for additional hours to meet our growing needs. Also as an Association we have finished our 1st year of a short term contract with the Richcraft Sensplex this ice has added significant additional cost to the association some cost recovery programs were set in place to offset this expense. Our recreational camps this year will again be run out of this new facility.

As GCRA President, I was happy to be our Associations representative / vote at Eastern Region, NCRRL and many sub committees.

Being involved in the largest Association in our region it is important that we have a voice at all levels and as a result I have been elected and or appointed to many boards and sub committees to help maintain, improve and grow this wonderful game. Ensuring that GCRA has a presence is a valuable asset when recommendations or motions are made that affect all member Associations either regionally or provincially.

Over the last calendar year as GCRA President I presided, or represented GCRA at:

* 9 GCRA executive meetings
* 4 NCRRL Presidents meetings
* 10 Eastern Region Ringette Association board meetings
* 2 Eastern Region Presidents meetings
* 1 ERRA tribunal / hearing
* 1 ORA Sport Development conference call
* 12 GCRA Tournament planning committee meetings
* 2 ORA weekend standing committee meetings -Toronto (April and August)
* ORA AGM – Oshawa
* NCRRL AGM
* ERRA AGM

Many resulting in multiple action items (reports, follow up calls, e-mails, presentations etc).

Another year as Association President has come to an end. At this time I would like to thank all our volunteers for their efforts in helping this Association provide opportunities for girls to play an amazing sport create lasting memories and develop lifelong friendships. I would also like to thank our partners in regional associations, as well as the ERRA and ORA for their dedication to the promotion and implementation of the sport of Ringette. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind our members that we are always looking for help to run some of the many programs and events that GCRA offers. Please consider putting you name forward to participate in some capacity.

**Tournament Chair Report – February 2015 (5th to 8th)**

Tournament co-chairs met in June 2014 to start planning our annual event. We completed the sanctioned event application, ensured our ice contract requests were submitted to the city and composed our tournament invitation letter and set up the on line registration link with our accommodations and registration partner Hudson Travel.

We finished our final of a three year contract with Hudson as our partner. (Recommendation to use Score2stats We had contract with Score 2 Stats to provide our stats package. (Score 2 Stats has evolved over the years and now also offers a Accommodation and Registration package that GCRA can consider in years to come. moving forward)

Knowing how popular our event is we were able to negotiate a 2nd ice contract purchasing additional ice at the Ray Friel complex.

We initially lost our ice at Potvin – Due to the Privatization of the facility after 8 weeks of negotiating with the city (June/July 2014) and Richcraft we were able to secure the majority of our ice back.

Once the initial contracts were set up we then assembled our core committee– we were very lucky to have many returnees from the 2014 committee and also add 4 new members. The registration link went live in August. Managing the divisions was huge challenge as it is every year. In the end we were able to accommodate 94 teams plus two Bunny groups. We attracted teams from New Brunswick to Alberta this year. The scheduling of so many teams within Ontario Ringette’s guidelines is also a huge challenge where many eyes and hours are spent checking and rechecking. Working closely with our referee in chief as well to ensure facilities and match ups are workable for all involved.

Thank you to all the families who volunteered to make this event a success. Our event is run out of 8 different facilities and 12 different ice pads over 4 days, as a result managing teams, ice and volunteers is a challenge that we meet year after year.

With special thanks to our committee for all their hours of planning, preparation and support of this event:

**Nadia Wolters - Treasurer**

**Mark Sequin -Scheduler**

**Steve Welch - Registrar**

**Karen Graham & Janet Streib, Trina Whitehurst, Anne Matsche – Minor officials & Troubleshooting**

**Janet- Promotions**

**Al Stewart – Clocks and shot clocks**

**Nanci Laroche – Medals and Presentation coordinator**

**Duncan Macquarrie – RIC**

**Jane Farquhar & Mike Lester Co-Chair**

**Challenges**

We require new members to join this committee to have this event continue to be successful. We are losing many key members.

Thank you, Mike Lester / Jane Farquhar -GCRA Tournament 2015 Co-Chairs

**Action:** Motion to accept the President's Report moved by Brenda Gallagher, Seconded by Michelle Reis - **Motion Carried.**

**4.2 VP Administration- Tanya Martin**

VP Administration AGM report 2014-2015 Season

This season GCRA implemented online registration. This was not without a few hiccups. Maria emailed our spring newsletter and registration forms to all previous members. Members were able to register on line but due to a signature requirement of ORA, the registration form still needed to be printed off and mailed to GCRA along with payment.

Registration was up down slightly from the previous season.

For the 2014-2015 season, Maria processed 397 registrations down slightly from 412 the previous season. GCRA had 28 teams this season.

Our treasurer updated the sponsorship packages for our website and distribution to our members.

Although not one of my official duties, I continued to organize the goalie clinic this season. These clinics are free for any goalie in our association that is interested; all they need is to provide a shooter and hopefully a coach/ass’t coach. Most if not all goalies were assigned to three clinics in the first half of the season and two in the second half. With the A level teams playing in the LRQ, there was some difficulties with the skill level of all groups. Halfway through the season, Heather Guy, volunteered to become the new coordinator of the goalie clinic. Heather was cc’d on all communication for the second half of the season and will take over the role for the 2015-2016 season.

One of my duties is to chair the Discipline committee as necessary. This sub-committee meets through the season to deal with any situations that arise internally or from league or provincial play. I am happy to report we had no meetings this season.

Over the course of the season, I reviewed a few of our policies. GCRA adopted the ORA’s Social Media Policy in September. ORA developed this policy to help association make informed decisions about how they use the internet and other electronic methods of communication. A new policy on the use of GCRA’s logos was approved in October.

Over the year, I worked on improving the online registration system. A signature requirement will be replaced by a check box waiver in the new system. GCRA has also added online payment for the upcoming registration. As this will be a new process we are asking for everyone’s patience and understanding if we encounter any difficulties. A small increase in fees is necessary to cover the costs associated with an online payment method and to cover an increase in ice costs from the City. The spring newsletter was sent out by our registrar Maria. No forms were sent out as we are encouraging all members to use the online system this year. Registration forms will be on our website for those wishing to pay by cheque. New players and players that turn 18 during the playing season will have to provide a copy of their birth certificates.

Walk in registrations have been schedule for Wed June 3 and Thurs June 11 (6:30-8:30pm) at BMRC. Executive members will be on hand to help anyone with registering on line or to receive registrations from those wishing to pay by cheque/cash.

As the season was coming to an end, it was time to organize our annual volunteer appreciation night. Eighty-five volunteers attended a pasta dinner in their honour at the Crossbar restaurant. It was great to put faces to the names of many of the volunteers I have had email contact with over the season.

Tanya Martin - Administration 2014-15

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Administration Report moved by Celine Leduc, Seconded by Natalie Cale - **Motion Carried.**

**4.3 VP House League – Mark Seguin**

* For the season ended 2014/15, GCRA had 10 teams take to the ice in the U12 (Petite) to U19 (Belle) House League divisions. That is 2 teams less than the previous year.
* We had an average of 13 players per team which is consistent with the previous season.

**Evaluation Process**

The house league evaluation process took place between August 29th and September 20th 2014 which included 12 days of on ice sessions.

A total of 40 hours of ice time was used during the month of September.

There were just over 130 kids to be evaluated and placed on teams in 12 days.

As was the case in previous years, special recognition of the efforts of ALL volunteers needs to be noted.

* **Approximately 25 volunteers assisted with the House League evaluations and together put in over 200 hours and the result was the placement of just over 130 kids on 10 different teams. A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED!!!**

These hours do not include the time put in by members of the Executive.

**Petite U12**

The executive would like to thank the coaching staff of both U12 teams this season. Team one was led by Darrel Heckmann and our second team was led by Val Cavers. This season, GCRA followed the directive from the region by balancing the U12 division. While it was an adjustment form some, by all accounts the U12 division this season was a huge success compared to the previous year. Both teams were led by 2 new coaches one of which had many many years of experience in the sport and the players truly benefited. The U12 – Cavers teams represented GCRA in the league Championships in Arnprior and took home 2nd place.

This division started out the season as one division and at the mid-point of the season it was split into 2 groups (Blue and Red). Both GCRA teams ended the season in the Red pool. We had our U10-Leduc team re-seeded to the U12 Blue division for the second half.

**Tween U14**

The executive would like to thank the coaching staff of all 4 U14 teams this season. U14B#1 head coached by Tim Fletcher, U14B#2 head coached by Dave Matschke, U14C#1 head coached by Chris Leslie and U14C#2 head coached by James Moffat.

* During NCRRL summer meetings of 2013; all members agreed that associations with multiple teams in a division would balance their teams in an attempt to keep the divisions competitive. GCRA had enough players to field 4 teams. The evaluations showed that there was a clear divide in scores to form 2 teams in the B division and 2 teams in the C division. We then created 2 balanced B teams and 2 balanced C teams.
* The balancing approach proved to be a great success this season as both B teams met in the league championships in Arnprior and the winning (Matschke) won by one goal. The balancing of the C teams was also a big success as both teams dominated their respective division and met in the semi-finals and team Leslie took home first place in the league championships.
* This success of all 4 teams was never hindered by the fact that to start the season GCRA only had one full-time goalie for all 4 teams.
* The reseeding meeting had not impact on any of our teams.
* A special thank you to Chris Leslie who replaced the initial head coach of this team once the season began.
* The GCRA Tween division should be very proud of the development of the players as they proved to be very strong in the region.
* Bench staff evaluations once again proved to be very positive for all teams.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP House League Report moved by Natalie Cale, Seconded by Anne Lester - **Motion Carried.**

**4.4 VP Competitive – Jeff Beaulac**

GCRA once again offered spots to over 120 players from U19 to U12 while we iced teams in all 8 competitive divisions and continued to support the Gloucester Devils NRL team. For the second consecutive year, all teams were able to qualify for provincials with Petite Provincial Altherr and the Tween A team bringing home silver medals in their divisions.

We once again offered both mid and end of year coaching feedback to all competitive teams. End of year feedback has been provided to the teams with any significant issues being discussed with each coach individually.

This year marked the first season the U19 A and U16 A teams from the region participated in the LERQ, which was a GCRA initiative. The increased variety of competition proved to be a positive for the teams and was particularly crucial at the U19A level where the region only hosted 3 teams. Feedback from all teams was extremely positive and we are hopeful this will continue moving forward. The U14 A group will not be able to participate as the LERQ does have a corresponding division and the NCRRL will remain their regular season league.

The competitive teams at the U12 and U14 age groups were offered power skating sessions run by Apex Performance on our Friday night Richcraft ice during the course of the season. While these sessions were well received, we do have some things to improve on for next season. As such we have begun discussions with the NRL team to offer Power Skating/Skill Development to the competitive teams. While the discussions are still at the preliminary stages, the intent is to have the NRL manage the program as a team fundraising activity. Teams/age groups/positions will be offered sessions and coaches will be encouraged to participate as well. For example, we would like to run some scoring/shooting clinics, defence only clinics along with traditional power skating. Once we have our ice allocation, we will continue to develop this initiative.

To provide better support our coaches and teams, we will be commencing a new coaching support program. The purpose of this project is to have each team articulate their season objectives both from a team and player development perspective. They will also be required to provide information on how they plan to achieve these goals. Each team will be asked to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their bench staff and strategies to address any areas of concerns. The association will then assist the teams in addressing any challenges they may be facing. For example, a team may not have a goalie coach and the association can facilitate access to a variety of resources to address this. Ultimately we want to put all our coaches in a position to succeed. This project will be managed from within the competitive program with the assistance of additional resources as required.

2015-16 coaching selections and spring tryouts have been completed for the U14 and U16 divisions with fall tryouts for U19 and U12 to commence over the last couple of weeks of August and early September. Provincials will be hosted by Ottawa for U12, Timmins for A and Waterloo for AA.

Over the 2014 summer, the competitive coaches with assistance of other association coaches presented the week long power skating program. Feedback has continued to be positive with the sessions and we will continue to run the on-ice portion of the camp in 2015.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Competitive Report moved by Susan Woodhouse, Seconded by Steve Welch - **Motion Carried.**

**4.5 VP Operation/Equipment Manager – Lauri Lester**

Appointee positions falling within the responsibility of the VP Operations:

**Referee In Chief**: Thank you to Duncan for his support to the GCRA

**Statistician**:  Thank you to Natalie for her support to the GCRA.

**Shot Clock** testing, repair and support was provided by Alan Stewart during the 2014-2015 season.  Thank you to Alan for his support to the GCRA.

**Ice Scheduler:** Darlene Pickup has been the GCRA ice scheduler for 7years. Darlene has established excellent relationships with city staff. She negotiates and schedules over 1100 hours of ice each season…add to this spring tryouts & summer camps and this is clearly a year-round job…and she does it meticulously. In the 2014-2015 season, thanks to Darlene’s attention to detail and scheduling, GCRA did not waste one hour of ice. On behalf of Darlene, thank you to all the coaches for their support this past season. And on behalf of the executive, thank you to Darlene. We appreciate her skills and the endless hours and attention she gives to GCRA.

**Equipment Manager:**  GCRA continued to supplement the stock of goalie equipment, rings etc.

Thank you to Tanya Martin for her help with various tasks.

Thank you to GCRA players who volunteered their help to work at the equipment return days.

A special mention and thanks to parent, Dave Glass, who donated some goalie equipment to the association. *\*currently in need of an Equipment Manager*

**Tournament Chair:**   *Mike Lester will provide a report.*

Thank you to Mike Lester, Jane Farquhar and all the members of the GCRA Tournament Committee for their endless hours of work to make the GCRA Tournament a success.

*\*currently in need of a Tournament Chair*

**Website:** Thank you to Mark Pelisek and Whirlwind Media for the support provided to the GCRA website.

**Special initiatives launched:**

1. **U8, U9 and U10 ‘Hardest Working Player’ hardhats.  Thank you to Shaz Catering for the** donation of the hardhats and support for this initiative and for the donation of cookies GCRA tournament.

2. U12 Regional teams ‘Player of the Game’ certificates.  Thank you to Pita Pit Orleans for the donation of gift certificates and for the donation of sandwiches to the GCRA tournament.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Operations Report moved by Natalie Cale, Seconded by Pat Martin - **Motion Carried.**

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**4.6 Director at Large – Brenda Gallagher**

***Team Photos***

Each GCRA team was offered the opportunity to have photos taken at one of their practices.

***Open AA/U8 Match Up program***

GCRA held their 5th annual Open AA/U8 match up in December. This is an annual event that gives the U8 teams the opportunity to attend a Gloucester Devils NRL game. The U8 teams were on the ice for the national anthem, stayed to watch the game and were on the ice with the team for a short period of time after the game. The U8 girls were given a small souvenir of the day from the team and from the Association.

We've had positive feedback for this event every year. This year we made some minor changes as a result of the ice schedule. The U8 coaches, parents and players as well as the NRL players and staff were all very flexible and made the U8s feel quite special.

***Summer Camp 2014***

GCRA ran two weeks of recreational camp and one week of competitive camp in August.

Both were very successful running at almost full capacity.  GCRA also ran a one week session of power skating in late August to prepare our players for the upcoming season which again was very popular and received positive feedback.

***Summer Camp 2015***

Registration for this year’s three weeks of camp is well underway. We have implemented online payment this year.

Thank you to Maria Joynson for her guidance this year.

**Action**: Motion to accept the Director at Large Report moved by Pat Martin, Seconded by John Biro - **Motion Carried.**

**4.7 Director, Player Development – Celine Leduc**

**The Novice and Bunny Divisions**

**The Novice division had 6 teams: 2 at U10, 2 at U9 and 2 at U8 to a total of 70 players.**

**The girls participated in the NCRRL. They also took part in some in town and out of town tournaments. Each team had a variety of successes both in the league play and in tournament play. In the GCRA tournament both U10 teams won gold and one U9 team won silver.**

**Both our U9 teams were in the top tier following the reseeding. We also had our U10 teams move to the top tier of U10 and one of our U10 teams moved to the U12 division.**

**Over the course of the playoffs our teams did very well both our U8 teams participated in their championship day, one of our U9 teams made it to the semi finals, one of our U10 teams made it to the semi final and one of our U10 teams won the U12 division.**

**The coaches felt that they had much success and the parents feedback indicates that the girls improved in their skills and knowledge of ringette.**

**We also introduced two new programs at the Novice division: power skating and skills and drills. Both programs were well attended and well received. We had a waiting list for one of the programs. It is felt that if the ice time is available, both these programs should continue next year. Every Novice team also received a bonus ice time session with NRL girls.**

**The Bunny program ran three different groups: one in Blackburn, one at Ray Friel and one at Barrett. We had over 75 boys and girls registered for this learn to skate program. The participated in a once a week program. The Senior bunnies took part in an exhibition game during the GCRA tournament. As well, all of the bunnies participated in Bunny Fest at the end of the year.**

**We are working on a recruitment strategy to get more registrations for our program.**

**Action:** Motion to accept the Director, Player Development Report moved by Tanya Martin Seconded by Torie Billings- Motion Carried.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**VP Administration Michelle Reis** Nominated by Heather Croatto Seconded by Linda McNamara **Acclaimed**

**VP Competitive Jeff Beaulac** Nominated by Darlene Pickup Seconded by Steve Welch **Acclaimed**

**Treasurer Susan Woodhouse** Nominated by Mark Seguin Seconded by Celine Leduc **Acclaimed**

**Director of Player Development Celine Leduc** Nominated by Torie Billings Seconded by John Biro  **Acclaimed**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Update on ERRA ( See Attached)

2. NCRRL AGM Meeting will be held on May 21, 2015

3. AAA Challenge Cup will be held on Thanksgiving Weekend - Oct. 2015.

4. **Motion** to rename VP House League to VP Regional - Moved by Natalie Cale and Seconded by Anne Lester - **Motion Carried.**

5. Kim Leehmuis won the door prize receiving $100.00 off of the 2015-2016 Registration fee.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn the meeting - Moved by Joyce Wilson and seconded by Heather Croatto. **Motion Carried.**