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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MAY 16, 2016 7:00 PM RAY FRIEL COMPLEX**

**Present:** Jen Vila, Tess Maheux, Sebastien Durand, Steve Welch, Joanne Thompson, Peggy Flynn, Karla Szabo, Anita Ayoub, Laurie Zoutis, Lyne Desmarais, Tracy Bray, Ann Matschke, Monique Larabie, Dana Nalley, Omar Nalley, Marie Drolet, Lidia DiBiase, Karl Morency, Peter Bell, Krista St. Martin, Matt Emery, Dan Altherr, Mike Petherick, Serge Robichaud, Heather Guy, Kory Kopko, Denis Lacroix, Laurie Walker, Kim Leemhuis, Bill Hubbs, Tania Lecompte, Darren Wheeler, Lina Belanger, Rylee Raymond, Chris Cavers, Jill McGowan, Franco Croatto, Heather Croatto, Torie Billings, John Biro, Krista Cooper, Allison McKelvey, Leslay Ireton, Marc D'Aoust, Amy Grosset, Valerie Cavers, Darcy Newman, Wes Oldroyd, Linda McNamara, Mike Lester, Josee Sabourin, Jennifer Green, Brenda Gallagher, Jennifer Kosak, Tanya Martin, Darlene Pickup, MIchelle Reiss, Celine Leduc, Susan Woodhouse, Jeff Beaulac.

**1. Call To Order**

Tanya Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Adoption of 2015 AGM Minutes**

**Action:** Motion that the minutes of 2015 AGM be adopted – Moved by Bill Hubbs and seconded by Steve Welch. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Treasurer’s Report**

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

The membership has been requesting that GCRA go to on-line registrations for the last few years to make it easier to register and pay for GCRA events. To this end, and to keep up with the times, we have incorporated on-line registration/payments. This modernization does come at an increased cost that is therefore handed down to families. PayPal charges us for each financial transaction and there is an administrative cost per registration (into any program/event) that is paid to our WebSite provider (Goal Line). The increased administrative costs, coupled with an increase in the cost of ice for the 2015-2016 season has necessitated an increase in registration fees:

Bunnies: From $190.00 to $205.00

U8 - U19: From $525.00 to $575.00

This year, we had 24 community sponsors that contributed $11,450.00 to our Team and Players. Amazing community support.

**Calculated into General Account:**

Equipment Fund: Generated from $50 per team bond + equipment sales and summer rentals: $7,960.00.

Bernie Cockburn 'On Ice' Fund: $2,178.79 remains in the fund. The Fund covered registration fees for 4 players this past season.

GCRA Tournament Account: Although this money is part of the GCRA total dollars, there is $10,000.00 that is kept in a separate account (so they do not accrue bank account fees) and is used as a float for costs associated with the tournament.

*Thanks to everyone for your patience as we figure out all the financial glitches associated with on-line registrations.*

Susan Woodhouse presented the financial statement (see attached) as of May 8, 2016

**Action:** Motion to approve the Budget/Financial Report to May 8, 2016 moved by Franco Croatto and Seconded by Peggy Flynn. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Executive Member’s Reports**

**4.1 President’s Report - Tanya Martin**

I started the year agreeing to fill in for the VP Operations and ended as acting President. It has been a year of learning and growing for sure. In late August, Mike Lester was elected chair of Eastern Region and was no longer able to continue as President for GCRA. I agreed to act as President and the rest of the executive agreed to help pitch in with the workload.

My main tasks this year focused on two projects, the City’s new Ice Allocation Policy and a regional committee working on growing the sport that was to focus on boundaries. I will discuss these two projects in greater detail later in the evening. Through these projects I corresponded with our local city councilors and executive members of other associations. Hopefully we have developed good working relationships with everyone as they became aware of our issues of concern and we became familiar with their issues. We all shared some areas of concern but there are unique problems for each association that we need to be understanding of as we move forward to grow our sport.

In the early part of the year I dealt with some of the problems around evaluations and team formation. We can never please everyone but we do our best to be transparent and follow our polices. I attended ERRA and NCRRL meetings and reported back to our executive.

In the second half of the season, I organized a small power skating program for regional players and a few special skill clinics on a trial basis. The feedback from these programs indicates future sessions would be supported by our members if the timeslots were adjusted.

As spring evaluations were upon us, Mark Seguin and I stepped in to organize our U16 evaluations to avoid any conflict of interest. Mark oversaw the coaching selection process for the U16 level and I organized evaluators and on ice components. I would like to thank the volunteers who came out and helped evaluate. This is a difficult task as evaluations are the one area that people love to complain about without thinking about the repercussions to those around them. 31 people came out over the evaluation period and we were able to have 12-15 evaluators per session. Thank you so much!

Mike Lester was a member of the executive as past president this year. I would like to thank Mike for his guidance as I learnt the ropes. Mike is has moved on to bigger and better things but GCRA will always be thankful for his hard work for our association over the years. Mike has worn many hats for GCRA and we thank you for all you have done!

**Action:** Motion to accept the President's Report moved by Valerie Cavers and Seconded by Kim Leehmuis - **Motion Carried.**

**4.2 VP Administration- Michelle Reis**

VP Administration AGM report 2015 – 2016 Season

This season was my first in the position of VP administration, it has been a year of learning for me and not without a few hiccups. We continued to try and fine tune the online registration as well as the online payment process. It was also the first season for our registrar, Krista Cooper so she and I learned a lot during the process.

Registration was up slightly from the previous year with 415 youth registrations, and 40 adult registrations. We had 27 youth teams, plus one open team and the NRL team. This past season there were 73 registrants in bunnies. This increase was in large part thanks to John Biro who filled the role of publicities and promotions. This is a role that has been empty for several years and we are incredibly grateful for John’s help this past season. He helped with a “Come Try Ringette” event that was a joint venture between several associations as well as developing and distributing many, flyers to cars windshields during a Hornets soccer tournament. He also created the GCRA Facebook page.

During the summer months the executive met in small groups over two separate days to review and update the GCRA policies. While this is an important task, it has proven to be very time consuming!! I will continue to update and post the new updated policies on the website.

In the month of November several GCRA teams attended the 67’s Ringette Night. Our association sold 469 tickets for the event and we had 14 teams in attendance. During the first intermission one of our U9 teams was show cased and the Eastern Region AAA team was on during the second intermission.

One of the duties of the VP Administration is to chair the Discipline committee and I am happy to report that the discipline committee was again not necessary.

Registration for the 2016 – 2017 season has been opened up and is now live on the GCRA website.

Given the increase in costs and the increase in city ice fees it is once again necessary for us to increase our registration fees.

We have gone paperless, all registrations will be completed online this season. With the new Goaline website the process should be much more user friendly!

We are continuing to offer discounts to families with 3 or more players.

We will be hosting two evenings for those who wish to make offline payments and would like to drop off cheques.

Wednesday June 8th and Thursday June 30th from 6:30 – 8:30 at the BMRC

Executive members will be present to offer assistance with the registration process and accept payments.

As the season was coming to an end, it was time for me organize and host the annual volunteer appreciation evening. I would like to thank Anita Ayoub and Laurie Zoutis for helping me organize the evening. 95 volunteers attended Stanley’s restaurant on Friday evening, May13th. I was thrilled to see everyone and hope all enjoyed themselves I think it was a great success.

It has been my pleasure to be part of the Executive this past year. I have learned a ton and look forward to the upcoming season. Thank you..

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Administration Report moved by Valerie Cavers Seconded by Krista Cooper - **Motion Carried.**

**4.3 VP Regional – Mark Seguin**

* For the season ended 2015/16, GCRA had 9 teams take to the ice in the U12 (Petite) to U19 (Belle) Regional divisions. That is 1 team less than the previous year.
* We had an average of 14 players per team which is consistent with the previous season.

**Evaluation Process**

The regional evaluation process took place from late August into the 4th week of September 2015 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 approximately 125 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.

* **Once again roughly 20 volunteers assisted with the evaluations and together put in over 190 hours and the result was the placement of just over 120 kids on 9 different teams. A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED! I cannot express to everyone how much this effort made everything go so smooth. A very significant undertaking.**

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

**U12**

The executive would like to thank the coaching staff of both U12 teams this season. Team one was led by Kristina Heaslip-Chestnut and our second team was led by Serge Robichaud. This season, GCRA followed the directive from the region by balancing the U12 division. At the reseeding meeting in November, there was a lengthy discussion about moving the GCRA teams to the Provincial level. The VP Regional phoned each head coach during the meeting to get their decision on whether or not they would like to be move up. Following a brief deliberation, one team (Heaslip-Chestnut) asked to be moved to the Provincial Red division and the Robichaud team felt that it would be in the best interest for the majority of his team to remain in the regional group.

While the outcome for the Heaslip-Chestnut team during the 2nd half games may not have been on the winning side for most games, we are hopeful that the experience will go a long way in the development of the players.

**U14**

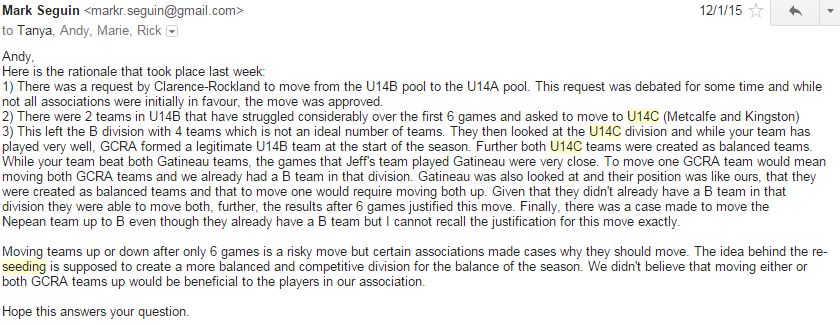
The executive would like to thank the coaching staff of all 3 U14 teams this season. U14B head coached by Chris Leslie, U14C#1 head coached by Andrew Monteiro and U14C#2 head coached by JeffHowe.

* During NCRRL summer meetings of 2015; 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 of ‘B’ caliber to field 1 “B” team and 2 “C” teams. The evaluations showed that there was a clear divide in scores to form these teams and to be consistent will league rules, we balanced the 2 “C” teams.
* During the evaluations, 25 very detailed copies of the evaluation process that GCRA follows was handed out to all families that attended the evaluations. Some families missed the opportunity to take a copy so electronic copies were emailed to those who came forward as well as the coaches of both “C” teams.
* While the belief from some of those that were placed on a “C” team is that there was enough talent to form 2 “B” teams, we stand by the process that was followed and the final outcome. Had we made 2 “B” teams, the teams would have been too weak to compete at that level. For 1 or 2 families that feel that their daughters were overlooked in the “B” team, I offer this: *accepting the responsibility of this position on the executive requires that we look at the bigger picture which includes attempting to satisfy 122 kids and this task is not taken lightly. In order to form a second team of at least 11 skaters when there were clearly only 4 “bubble” players would have produced a 2nd team that would not have competed and if balanced, both teams would have been weak and would not have developed.*
* The balancing approach to form the 2 “C” teams was first based on scores then equal numbers at each position then completed the process by having a scrimmage and both bench staff representatives agreed that the teams were balanced.

*While the outcome during the season showed that the “C” pool was not balanced, GCRA remains firm on the statement that both our teams were balanced at the beginning of the season. This was proven by the fact that when both sister teams played, the games were very close.*

*Unfortunately GCRA has no say in how competitive a division will be, this depends on what other associations field at that level.*

* During the reseeding meeting, GCRA did not move any of the 3 teams in the U14 division. There was considerable feedback from the Monteiro team asking why they were not moved up to “B”. The VP Regional explained to several members of that team’s bench staff the rationale behind leaving the teams as they were, however based on the year end surveys, it would seem that the message was unfortunately not delivered to the teams. As such I am including one of the messages provided to the coach that explained the rationale.



**U16**

The executive would like to thank the coaching staff of both U16 Junior teams this season. We formed 2 B teams and team 1 was coached by Fiona Campbell-Daigle and team 2 was coached by Tim Fletcher.

* The evaluations in the fall clearly showed that we did not have a clear cut line to form one B and one C. Based on these results and in the interest of development and the fact that both goalies proved to be of B caliber we created 2 balanced B teams.
* The teams were large in numbers so we attempted to offer second year players to move up to the U19 pool but none accepted.
* There was some feedback from families that criticized the decision to form a 2nd U16A team stating that it weakened the regional pool. A complete 180 from the year where the feedback was the complete opposite.

**Belle U19**

The executive would like to thank the coaching staff of both U19 Belle teams this season. The Belle B#1 team head coached by Phil Marsh and Belle B#2 team head coached by Joel Lee.

* Both teams were extremely small in terms of roster size with 12 players aside. Quite small for a U19 team.
* As the season progressed, one of the teams lost a few players due to injury which caused them to struggle the rest of the season but from all accounts, the players enjoyed the experience.

The league once again offered the goalie clinics and power skating which were very well received by those who participated.

I would personally like to thank all those that helped during season from the evaluation process right through to end of the season.

This was my final term as VP Regional.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Regional Report moved by Susan Woodhouse, Seconded by Linda McNamara - **Motion Carried.**

**4.4 VP Competitive – Jeff Beaulac**

The 2015-16 season saw GCRA ice teams in all 8 competitive divisions with over 140 players in the program while we continued to support the NRL Gloucester Devils. The U19AA, U16AA and U14AA once again participated in the LERQ while the U19A and U16A teams participated for the second year in the LERQ. Feedback for the A teams participation in the Quebec league remains positive and we do not anticipate any changes for the upcoming season. For the third consecutive year, GCRA was represented in all competitive divisions at provincials. The U16 AA and A Copeland along with the U14 AA and A teams were regional reps for provincials. The U14 AA team finished 4th at Provincials, the U14 A team earned a silver medal and the U12 Provincial Leduc team won gold at the U12 Event. In addition, the U16AA team was able to participate in the Canadian Ringette Championships in London, where they were able to have the experience of a lifetime over the week-long event.

GCRA were active contributors to the Eastern Region AAA program this past season. We had players representing the association at all positions and the majority of the bench staff, led by Head Coach Mike Lester were from GCRA.

This past season, due to the unusually large number of players born in 2001, we offered a second U16A team. The feedback from the participants was positive. At this time we do not foresee any additional team offerings for the 16-17 season and any such decision will always be reviewed on a case by case basis.

As in years past, we offered both mid and end of season coaching feedback to all competitive teams, with participation in both processes at the lowest we have seen in years. We are still in the process of providing the end of season feedback to the teams.

We were able to partner with the Gloucester Devils and Ottawa Ice NRL teams to offer skills development clinics throughout the course of the season. The sessions with Gloucester were mostly focused on the U12 and U14 age groups on Friday nights, while additional sessions targeting the older girls were spread out through the season with the Ottawa Ice. Scheduling conflicts with the NRL teams and ice availability limits our ability to offer enhanced programs but we will continue to build on our past successes to offer girls developmental opportunities outside of their teams. Special thanks to Tanya Martin and Celine Leduc for organizing the clinics.

We have recently completed our coaching and player selections for the U16 and U14 AA and A teams for the upcoming season. The U16AA, U16A and U14A teams have 14 skaters and 2 goalies each while the U14AA team has 13 skaters and 2 goalies. U19 and U12 Provincial coaching selections are ongoing while tryouts will be starting the last week of August and dates will be finalized as part of the regional tryout program.

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Competitive Report moved by Krista St. Martin, Seconded by Franco Croatto - **Motion Carried.**

**4.5 VP Operations – Jennifer Kosak**

Appointee Positions falling under the VP Operations area of responsibility:

**Equipment Manager:** *Franco Croatto* presented the new association pants that will be ordered for players to purchase for next season. An ordering night will be scheduled shortly. If any of the rings break during the season please bring them back and Franco will replace the broken ones.

**Ice Scheduler:** *Darlene Pickup* has been the GCRA ice scheduler for 8 years. The relationships’ she has built over the years has enabled her to smoothly negotiate and schedule over 1250 hours of ice this season. She would like to thank the executive members and all of the coaches for their support this past season.

Summary:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Hours of ice | 1,251 |
| Returned | 219 |
| Sold | 45 |
| Burnt | 0 |

**Referee in Chief**: *Duncan MacQuarrie* has been GCRA’s Referee in Chief for 2 years. He is moving on to complete Graduate Studies in Victoria. Replacement candidate screening is underway. We would like to thank Duncan for his support to the GCRA.

Below is a summary of 2015/2016 progress regarding Refereeing:

* 4 referees joined GCRA – 2 new and 2 experienced referees who have recently returned to refereeing.
* 1st years are showing great potential
* Two of the Level 2’s are very close to level 3 upgrade
* Two achieved level 3 this season.
* Recruiting for 2016/17 will occur between June and August. We anticipate regular intake of 2/3 new referees for next season.

**Statistician**: Thank you to *Natalie Cale* for her support to the GCRA. Natalie has stepped down from this role and *Denis Lacroix* has stepped up to assume this responsibility for 2016/2017.

**Tournament Chair**:*Serge Robichaud* and *Nathalie Altherr* co-chaired the GCRA tournament this year, and will continue on in this role for the 2016/17 season. With Special Thanks to the whole committee for all of their hours of planning, preparation and support of this event.

***101*** teams participated in the GCRA tournament in February 2016

The tournament generated profits to the association of approximately ***$5,000***.

**Website**

In February 2016 GCRA moved to GoalLine as our new website provider. This service offers significant improvements to the association as GoalLine cater their services specifically to sports associations across Canada. They have developed a platform which brings many benefits, some of which we have already started to use and will leverage much more throughout the upcoming seasons. Here is a bit of what is offered:

* Family efficiencies
  + One stop shopping for maintenance of person information – families can now log in and update their contact information which will be used by their team and association.
  + Simplified *registration forms* as forms will be pre-populated with basic information for subsequent registrations.
  + Pay online using PayPal
  + Online receipts
* Scheduling efficiencies:
  + Simplified *Scheduling* and the ability for teams to *subscribe* to receive their team schedule on our website and receive automatic updates
  + Practice time slots up for grabs – this is a feature offered by GoalLine which we may leverage to easily manage extra practice ice.
* Communication Efficiencies:
  + Facilitated method to promote news, load images and documents to the website
  + Membership can sign up to receive electronic email notifications
* Association Efficiencies:
  + Payment and refunds easily processed and tracked
  + Player registrations per product easily tracked and accessible
  + TRF will be streamlined this year
  + The application is used during Tryouts/Sort outs to communicate with the families, and immediately form the teams as well as assign coaches. This team information will be made available to the Coaching staff / managers and Registrar thus eliminating of the need to track via emails and paper trail.
  + Ability to track extra player and coach credentials online and kept year over year

**Volunteer Coordination**

* In 2015/2016 GCRA had 175 ***people*** filling *200 volunteer positions* within our *27 teams, Executive and Appointees*. We also fielded 1 Open team with an additional 5 volunteer positions.
* As coaching coordinator I worked with the coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and team managers to ensure that they were compliant with training and certifications as required by Ringette Canada and the Ontario Ringette Association.
* All volunteers within our organization who have direct contact with our players are required to have up to date Police Record Checks for work with the Vulnerable Sector. By year end all PRC requirements were met with the exception of *13 volunteers* who will not be allowed to be in any role where they are in direct contact with our players in the upcoming years until we are presented with valid police clearances.

Here is a breakdown of our volunteers:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Count** |
| Executive & Appointees | 20 |
| Head Coach | 27 |
| Assistant Coaches | 75 |
| Managers | 24 |
| Trainers | 22 |
| On Ice Helpers and Den Mothers | 31 |
| Coaches in Training | 1 |

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Operations Report moved by Tess Maheux, Seconded by Heather Croatto - **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 6th 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 participated in a warm up with the NRL team, were on the ice for the national anthem, stayed to watch the game and were able to spend some time with the team after the game getting autographs. 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. Every year there are minor variations based on the timing and ice availability. The U8 coaches, parents and players as well as the NRL players and staff were all very flexible. This is a great experience for the U8 teams.

***Summer Camp 2015***

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

There was positive feedback from all camps. Unfortunately, the first week of the Recreational Camp (which is a 4-day camp) only had 17 skaters resulting in a loss of $5300. The second week of the recreational camp was full past capacity. By making adjustments to the number of staff the camp coordinator managed to accommodate 58 skaters. The competitive camp was not sold out in 2015.

***Power Skating***

GCRA offered one-week session of power skating in late August to prepare our players for the upcoming season. While this is not as popular as it has been in the past it is an important program for the association to continue to offer.

***Summer Camp 2015***

Following a meeting with the camp coordinators in the fall it was decided to purchase additional ice of one week of the Ringette Camp at Potvin arena and increase the capacity to 70 skaters but to cut the 4-day week of camp. Registration for this year’s camps is well underway. We are, once again, using a new system this year. Goalline seems to be meeting our needs very well.

Applications for camp counselor positions and volunteer positions at the camps are being accepted on-line

***Power Skating***

GCRA will once again be offering power skating at the end of August. This year it will be a 4-day session (Monday- Thursday). Registration will be opening shortly.

**Action**: Motion to accept the Director at Large Report moved by Krista Cooper, Seconded by Tess Maheux - **Motion Carried.**

**4.7 VP NOVICE AND BUNNIES – Celine Leduc**

**The Novice and Bunny Divisions**

**Thank you to all the parents who came out to the AGM.**

**The Novice division had 6 teams: 2 at U10, 2 at U9 and 2 at U8 to a total of 76 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.**

**Over the course of the playoffs our teams did very well both our U8 teams participated in their championship day, one of our U10 teams won the gold on Championship day.**

**The coaches felt that they had much success and the parents feedback indicates that the girls improved in their skills and knowledge of ringette. I would like to thank all the Novice and Bunny coaches as well as the U10 convenor Pam Gray and U9 convenor Marc D’Aoust for volunteering this year.**

**We also continued running two programs at the Novice division: power skating and skills and drills. We added the NRL girls who came out to the Power Skating and offered their expertise to the girls. Both programs were well attended and well received. It is felt that if the ice time is available, both these programs should continue next year.**

**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. They 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 which was hosted by GCRA.**

**I would like to take this time to thank Tori Billings who has been the Convenor for the Bunny programs for the last 3 years. Tori has done a wonderful job ensuring that our Bunny programs are well supported and that our youngest players fall in love with the sport of ringette. I am sad to say that she is stepping down but I am thankful that she took on the position. Tori has offered to help support next year’s Convenor.**

**Lastly, people who would like to understand the evaluation process can forward me their names and be part of the evaluation teams for the novice groups.**

**Action:** Motion to accept the VP Novice and Bunnies Report moved by Kim Leehmuis. Seconded by Torie Billings- **Motion Carried**.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**President John Biro** Nominated by Tanya Martin Seconded by Peggy Flynn **Acclaimed**

**VP Operations Michelle Reis** Nominated by Jennifer Kosak Seconded by Peggy Flynn **Acclaimed**

**VP Regional Marie Drolet** Nominated by Dan Altherr Seconded by Tania Lecompte **Acclaimed**

**Secretary Darlene Pickup**

Nominated by Steve Welch Seconded by Lina Belanger

**Laurie Zoutis**

Nominated by Linda McNamara Seconded by Anita Ayoub

**Darlene Pickup Voted In.**

**Director at Large Rylee Batista**

Nominated by Lina Belanger Seconded by Tania Lecompte

**Ann Matschke**

Nominated by Monique Larabie Seconded by Dan Altherr

**Rylee Batista Voted In.**

**Director Player Development Celine Leduc**

Nominated by Brenda Gallagher Seconded by Marc D’Aoust

**Tania Lecompte**

Nominated by Anita Ayoub Seconded by Laurie Zoutis

**Celine Leduc Voted In.**

\*Celine Leduc stepped down from the VP Novice and Bunnies prior to running for the Director Player Development.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**1.** Proposed Changes to GCRA’s Bylaws

Article V Section 1

Currently section 1 reads as follows:

Subject to Section 70 of the Act, The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice President Administration
3. Vice President House League
4. Director, Player Development
5. Vice President Competitive
6. Vice President Operations
7. Secretary
8. Treasurer
9. Director-at-Large

who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and 10, Past President

Proposed change reads as follows:

Subject to Section 70 of the Act, The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice President Administration
3. Vice President Regional
4. Vice President Novice and Bunnies
5. Vice President Competitive
6. Vice President Operations
7. Secretary
8. Treasurer
9. Director-at-Large
10. Director of Player Development
11. Past President

who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting

Article XI Section 3

Currently Section 3 reads as follows:

**4. Vice President House League:**

The Vice President House League shall assist the President and, in the absence of the Vice President Operations, shall perform that person’s duties as required and otherwise, shall be the House League team co-ordinator and be responsible for the operations of the House League teams at all levels.

**8. Director, Player Development**

The Director Player Development is operationally responsible for the Bunny and Novice Programs.

Proposed change reads as follows:

**4. Vice President Regional:**

The Vice President Regional shall assist the President and, in the absence of the Vice President Operations, shall perform that person’s duties as required and otherwise, shall be the Regional team co-ordinator and be responsible for the operations of the Regional teams at all levels.

**8. Vice President, Novice and Bunnies**

The Vice President, Novice and Bunnies is operationally responsible for the Bunny and Novice Programs

**10.Director, Player Development**

The Director, Player Development is operationally responsible for all (regional and competitive) player development clinics.

Past President becomes point 11.

**Article XIII Section 1**

**Currently section 1 reads as follows:**

 The Executive shall appoint the following Officials who shall assume their respective duties at such time as designated by the Executive:

1. Referee-in-Chief (Operations),
2. Statistician (Operations),
3. Publicity and Promotion Director (Administration),
4. Registrar (Administration),
5. Ice Scheduler (Operations),
6. Equipment Manager (Operations),
7. Player and Coaching Development Director (Administration), and
8. Tournament Chairperson (Operations).

**Proposed change reads as follows:**

The Executive shall appoint the following Officials who shall assume their respective duties at such time as designated by the Executive:

1. Referee-in-Chief (Operations),
2. Statistician (Operations),
3. Publicity and Promotion Director (Administration),
4. Registrar (Administration),
5. Ice Scheduler (Operations),
6. Equipment Manager (Operations),
7. Tournament Chairperson (Operations)

The new position will be elected in even number years. An audit of remaining by-laws will be conducted and the title changes updated in all required articles and sections.

**Action:** Motion to accept the Proposed Changes to GCRA’s Bylaws as outlined above moved by Franco Croatto and Seconded by Tess Maheux. **Motion Carried.**

**NCRRL –**

New playoff format is a “regional” style tournament. Tim Fletcher attended meetings about this project on behalf of GCRA.

Instead of round robin, the NCRRL will hold a tournament March 24- 26 for all U9-U19 regional level teams. (A level teams will be decided in fall). All teams will be guaranteed three games. Cost will be $550 per team and the tournament is mandatory for ALL teams!! CORA will host the event as they have decided not to hold their tournament in December. Majority of games will be at the Sensplex East (upcoming season was booked so more rinks will be used). The tournament committee is looking at holding opening ceremonies for younger age groups. No call ups will be allowed as all teams are in the event.

The NCRRL regular season will go until the end of March (March 24 presumably) this will ease the scheduling problems faced by associations and teams with the old system of knock out rounds. Clear communication at the beginning of the year should help teams budget accordingly for the tournament and practice ice throughout the season.

**Welcome Year Discussion**

At the ERRA meeting in late August, a committee was formed to look at growing our sport in our region. Michelle Reis, Susan Woodhouse and I represented GCRA on this committee. WORA, CORA, Nepean, Clarence Rockland, Arnprior and Metcalfe also sent representatives to the first meeting along with members of the ERRA executive. The initial focus of the meeting was to be looking at the boundaries to see if they were discouraging people from playing our game. At the first meeting an idea was presented that became the focus of all subsequent meetings and has been dubbed “the Welcome Year” project. This is still a work in progress as several key points need to be finalized. The main idea is that at the end of a player’s U8 season, the player will be allowed to choose their home association. They may register with any association through their bunny years and U8 season. For example, no matter where Suzy lives, Suzy could play jr bunnies with Ottawa, sr bunnies with GCRA and U8 with Nepean. At the end of Suzy’s U8 year with Nepean, she/her family will have to formally declare their home association.

The intent is this will also apply to any new player wishing to play at the regional level that begins their ringette career in our region after their U8 year. The current thought is that this will not apply to players that are new to the region and wish to play at the competitive level, they will still be required to register based on the current boundaries.

It will run as a pilot project for 3 years and see if registration numbers increase. First group would be senior bunnies for the 2016-2017 season, to give them time to try out an associations for their U8 year before declaring their home association at the end of their U8 season. Still significant progress needs to be made before this can be confirmed. There is no tracking mechanism in place for example.

Clarence-Rockland and Arnprior have withdrawn from the project as their associations are outside the City limits and their members must be a residence of their City’s/Towns.

Metcalfe is within the City of Ottawa but they are concerned the program would have a detrimental effect on their association. They still wanted to be part of the discussions so continued to attend all meetings. Their executive voted not to take part in the program but remain part of the discussion and they will allow players to choose Metcalfe as their home association.

Nepean and CORA (Ottawa) have voted and passed this project. WORA and GCRA both waiting as both feel ice allocation would impact the programs they can offer and there are still too many undecided components. This committee is meeting again this week. GCRA will continue to with the region but is unwilling to commit to any pilot until we know our ice situation for the 2016-2017 season.

**New Ice Allocation Policy**

In June, Mike Lester and I attended a stakeholder engagement session for the City’s Recreation Facility Allocation Policy. The City has developed this new approach to allocating recreational facilities:

1. Allocation based on changing trends and validation requirements

staff is recommending that historical allocation patterns and levels be set aside as a main criteria for allocating rental times and that demonstrated present need and accepted playing time standards for the sport become the main driver for determining eligibility. Under this approach some associations that have been receiving more than their proportionate share will see a reduction in their ice allocation and conversely, groups who have seen growth in their association may see an increase in their allocation of available time slots. This will allow staff to be more responsive to changes in trends in our user groups.

1. Geographical redistribution of available rental times based on need

Geographic redistribution of available rental times will allow for users to have increased access to facilities within their neighbouring communities where possible and appropriate.

1. A cancellation policy that encourages early returns and unwanted rental times for reselling

Seasonal users will be required to confirm their rental times by a specified date.  After this date, returns will have a graduated “cancellation” fee applied up until 30 days prior to the facility use date, after which returns will no longer be accepted.

With these changes we are all anxiously awaiting our ice contract for the 2016-2017 season. We are hoping this new policy will increase our ice allotment in the south end. We have supplied the City with our registration numbers and they have been verified by ERRA. At our last meeting with the City, they made a slight change to the formula being used to determine the allotment for each user group. Instead of each user group dictating the skill level of their participants, the City has decided every user group will be treated the same: 70% beginner, 20% intermediate and 10% advanced. This has us a little nervous so we have discussed options. Tournament and special events were not suppose to come out of this allotment, the City went back on this in early May but after push back from us and other user groups, it will not happen for this year. Everyone should be aware that our locations and times could change for next year.

The cancellation policy is changing significantly and will require more advance planning on everyone’s part. As a seasonal user we have until Aug 1 (may change) to return any ice we do not plan on using for the season. After this date, any ice returned is charged a fee:

60 days or more – 25% of the cost

31-59 days – 50% of the cost

0-30 days – full cost (so basically no return allowed)

With the NCRRL moving to the new tournament style playoffs will help with some of the logistical changes required for this new policy. But there may be some growing pains as we work out in advance our ice requirements for the year. Teams will have to be more aware of their ice requirements and the timeframes involved with requesting and returning ice.

**Congratulations** to our Door Prize Winners:

Matt Emery – a new pair of GCRA pants

Peggy Flynn – One free Player Registration for the 2016-2017 season.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn the meeting - Moved by Tania Lecompte and seconded by Steve Welch. **Motion Carried.**