

## **DDMBA Annual General Meeting**

**Date: November 14, 2023**

**Time: 7pm**

**Location: CHP – Westphal Room**

## **Annual General Meeting Agenda:**

1. Call to Order: **7pm (Motion Brian Secord)**
2. Approval of the AGM Agenda **(Motion Steph Handerek and Rob MacNeill)**
3. Approval of Minutes from the previous AGM of November 14, 2022
  - <https://www.ddmba.net/>
    - Links >> AGM Documents >> Meeting Minutes (AGM 2022)
4. President's Report
5. Vice President's Report
6. Financial Report - Treasurer/Registrar
7. Competitive Coordinator Report
8. Recreation Coordinator Report
9. Umpire Assignor Report
10. Association Club Reports: CH, DD, EP, PL, HP
11. New Business [open floor to membership]
12. Nominations for Executive Positions
13. Election of Executive Positions
14. Adjournment: **8pm**

## **Report: DDMBA President (Mark Raftus)**

Despite the relentless rain which was beyond anyone's control causing many rainouts and playing havoc with club and parents schedules, DDMBA had another solid season of baseball in 2023.

### **REGISTRATION**

**Registration** remained constant with 2022 levels at **1170 registered players** and **45 total DDMBA associated teams**. Covid affected seasons in 2020 and 2021 revealed 713 and 973 registered players respectfully with 1197 registered participants in 2022.

Registration continued to be very strong at the introductory ages of U5 and U7 with solid club and developing parental support which is a great sign for years to come.

### **RECREATION LEVEL**

A "normal" season of baseball was able to be played in 2023 with a full, robust **Recreation level** containing thirty-two [32] Recreation teams playing among the U11, U13, U15 and U18 levels – the same total of teams as in 2022.

**League winners** were crowned at all **Recreation levels** behind the guidance of Recreation Co-ordinator Kim Pitre. Given all the rain, a special thank you is extended to both Kim and umpire assignor Jamie Aalders who spent many hours scheduling and rescheduling [and rescheduling...] games and umpires to make the season happen. As well, Diamond Dawgs U15 Navy made a valiant effort to defend their city championship hosted by LWF and achieved silver.

Largely at the continued request of DDMBA for improvements, a **Recreation Baseball Summit** was held by Baseball Nova Scotia on March 25, 2023. Of the eight participants from around the province three were from DDMBA [Raftus, Pitre, Cluett] with two BNSUD representatives, the HP President, a Valley club-based President and the BNS Executive director. Various ways to improve the Recreation level were canvassed. BNS pledged to bring in standards for across-the-province consistently applied rules, Rec coaching requirements, Criminal Record check policy and overall technical support for the recreation level. Stay tuned for 2024 changes.

**Coaching Manual & Practice Plan was updated for 2023** and a **pre-season meeting with DDMBA coaches was held on May 28, 2023**. It was held at Cole Harbour Place with the goal to better prepare coaches for the coming season. Approximately 40 coaches attended the meeting co-chaired by the President and Recreation Co-ordinator Kim Pitre. The Manual/Plan were reviewed, all questions answered, and the playoff format discussed. Playoff tournaments were set to run

on consecutive August weekends with two age levels each weekend. That goal was ultimately carried out as best we could given the rain but playoff play ran into September.

In the season-ending DDMBA survey it was identified by many members **better balancing of Recreation teams** involving clubs with two or more teams at the same level was required. The topic has been canvassed at the past DDMBA Executive meeting and strategies are being discussed to best address that issue moving forward. Debate points potentially involve rule tweaks, rebalancing and/or tiering within age groups after one month of play. Stay tuned.

## **COMPETITIVE LEVEL**

The **Competitive level** fell under Competitive Co-ordinator Brian Secord's purview.

At the **Competitive level** there were thirteen [13] DDMBA A, AA and AAA teams with the Arrows program fielding a total of nine [9] teams. The breakdown was AA and AAA teams at U11, U13 and U15 levels and U18 fielding a AAA team this year but not a AA team. Arrows A teams were fielded at the U15 and U18 levels. As well, Cole Harbour fielded two [2] A level teams at both the U11 and U13 levels – four [4] A teams in total.

Eight [8] DDMBA competitive teams **medaled at BNS provincials** including Arrows teams winning gold at the U11AA, U15A Tier 1 and Tier 2 and Cole Harbour winning gold at U11A Tier 3 and U13 Tier 2 and 3 levels. Arrows provincial silver medalists were awarded to U11AAA and U18A Tier 2.

Of the thirty [30] BNS provincial championships run by Baseball Nova Scotia, DDMBA teams achieved gold or silver in eight of them - **more than any other association** - a 27% overall medaling percentage - a fantastic showing reflective of years of player and coaching dedication.

DDMBA based individuals were honored at the annual **Baseball Nova Scotia awards** banquet held on October 21<sup>st</sup> where the following seven [!] individuals were recognized [again far exceeding any other association]:

- Brian Moore – Nova Scotia Challenger Baseball Award – Diamond Dawgs.
- Craig Field – BNS Grassroots Coach of the Year – Cole Harbour Cardinals U9 Major.
- Chloe Handerek – BNS Minor female Athlete of the Year – U11AAA Arrows Reeves.
- Julia Konigshofer – BNS Major Female Athlete of the Year – Former Arrow and current BNS Women's Provincial Team and Team Canada player.
- Noah McIntosh – BNS Minor Male Athlete of the Year – Former Arrow and current BNS U15 and U17 Selects player.

- Ty Doucette – BNS Major Male Athlete of the Year – Former Arrow and NS Selects provincial player, current Dartmouth Renegade U22, Dartmouth Mooseheads Senior, Canadian National Junior Team, Rutgers Scarlet Knights NCAA Div 1 baseball player.
- Jarrett Conrod – Major Umpire of the Year – also current Arrows U15AA assistant coach.

## EXECUTIVE/SPECIAL PROJECTS

DDMBA was blessed with an **excellent Executive and Board again in 2023**. Each member performed their role at a high level and were very responsive to issues/inquiries from membership.

The second year of using the interactive **RAMP program** championed by BNS found more improvements in scheduling and communication. A few bugs remain to be ironed out on game re-scheduling but the system is a solid one. Thanks to many who make the system work for the Association including Treasurer/Registrar Jim Scott and Florida-based Bluenoser Darren Hunter.

**Special project – the Beazley batting cage/storage shed** were identified as needing rejuvenation. The storage shed was dilapidated, and the batting cage netting was worn with support wiring for same broken. An associated need was identified for the Beazley satellite fields Kinsman and Little Beazley for on-site storage lockboxes to house bases, field liners and rake etc. The overall capital expenditure for the project was determined to be approximately \$7500. Funding was sought by the President.

The provincial Community Recreation Capital Grant fund [CRCG] was identified as a way to obtain some funding. An application was submitted in early April. After much paperwork and ongoing interactions with CRCG representatives approximately \$2500 [1/3 of the project] was awarded by CRCG in late August with the balance of the remaining \$5000 funded through donations from HRM [councillor Mancini's office], Action Truck, the Dartmouth Renegades Junior and Dartmouth Mooseheads Senior baseball teams. New netting was installed in early September and a new permanent shed has been purchased for installation before the snow flies. Three lockboxes were purchased which will be in place by the spring of 2024 at Little Beazley, Kinsman and also Conrad ballfields for DDMBA use.

Competitive Co-ordinator Brian Secord has been instrumental in sourcing the items for the project.

Moving forward a **\$100 annual charge per each Arrows team** will be budgeted and charged with funds earmarked for ongoing maintenance of the Beazley batting cage and satellite fields.

**HRM FIELDS MEETING** – Donnie MacDonald DDMBA secretary and the President attended a meeting on July 26, 2023, with HRM planning and policy representatives.

**Several topics were discussed including:**

- Creation of a multi field complex with at least one turfed field within the DDMBA catchment area.
- Lights being installed on existing DDMBA fields to alleviate field demand strain.
- Repurposing of existing spaces to alleviate field demand at the U5-U7 level.
- Installation of an online field booking program to permit booking/checks on field status.
- Field maintenance requests/inquiries - providing better feedback.
- HRM rainout policy – making it less of a “light switch on/off” for all fields policy.

HRM was responsive to DDMBA’s requests and suggested DDMBA members write their area HRM councillors to keep these issues top of mind when budgets are being tabled by HRM. A message was then conveyed by the President to membership on same which message needs to keep being delivered by members to their councillors.

**DISCIPLINE/CRC/VIP**

From a **Discipline standpoint**, the President chaired the **Discipline Committee** with Vice President Dominique-Surette-Lombard and Secretary Donnie MacDonald. **Three incidents** requiring suspension arose in 2023 which when looked at for the total amount of games played was not a large sum but the factual investigations were time consuming, and one incident is too many. Overall, the relatively low total was a testament to solid messaging and club organization provided by the Co-ordinators, Club Presidents, and coaches.

**DDMBA supports BNSUD in demanding a zero-tolerance environment for umpire abuse.** The green arm band policy was followed for age 18 and under umpires and caused one suspension to increase from 1 to 2 games. The three suspensions involved one coach each at the U13, U15 and U18 levels being suspended. One coach withdrew himself as a coach due to reported chronic verbal abuse, one was suspended for two games for an in-game incident of umpire abuse [green arm band penalty] and one coach was suspended one game for using an ineligible player in the playoffs. There was also a need for an additional membership website post to remind parents not to vape tobacco or use alcohol at youth baseball games when those transgressions were reported.

From a **Safety standpoint**, the DDMBA Criminal Record Check policy was followed again. In prior seasons the system of compliance predominantly used myBackCheck which did continue in 2023. However, the **VIP coaching platform** was passed along to members who were able to use their

on-line platform system to have member CRC's paid for 100% by the VIP program after coaching courses were viewed on-line. The VIP program has gifts/swag awarded once completed. Its use will be expanded in 2024 with its use stated to likely be mandated by BNS at all levels moving forward – both recreation and competitive. Stay tuned.

## **MOVING FORWARD/THANK YOU**

The **Executive/Board would like to thank** all the club presidents, coaches, managers, treasurers, and volunteers for their individual and collective efforts throughout the season. Some may not return next season but have not yet fully decided and will advise by their club AGM's.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to Executive members who are who are stepping back from their roles within their organizations including DDMBA and Eastern Passage Vice-President **Dominique Surette-Lombard** and Eastern Passage President **Jason Lombard** who have volunteered many years of service to make baseball in Eastern Passage and DDMBA better for the kids. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated and have not gone unnoticed. You have left your organizations in a better position than when you started.

**Jason Snyder** is the new Eastern Passage President elected at the October AGM. Welcome, Jason!

As per **Article 5.2 of the DDMBA Constitution** amended at the 2022 AGM each Executive Member serves a two [2] year term with half the Executive elected in calendar odd years and half in calendar even years. In order to make this division work those elected in 2022 have to put their positions up for re-election this year to make the alternating two-year terms work moving forward.

That means the following positions are up for election at the 2023 AGM:

- Vice-President – Dominique Surette-Lombard – not re-offering – open for vote.
- Treasurer/ Registrar – Jim Scott is the incumbent – he is re-offering – if contested a vote will occur.
- Recreation Co-ordinator – Kim Pitre is the incumbent – she is re-offering - if contested a vote will occur.

I thank you again for your trust and look forward to further growth and fun times in 2024.



Mark Raftus  
DDMBA President 2023

## Report: DDMBA Vice President (Dominique Surette Lombard)

I sat on a few committees this year and helped where I could.

Thank you to the DDMBA board and Club Presidents for all the hard work that you all put in year after year.

## Report: DDMBA Registrar (Jim Scott)

Registered almost 1,200 kids this year!

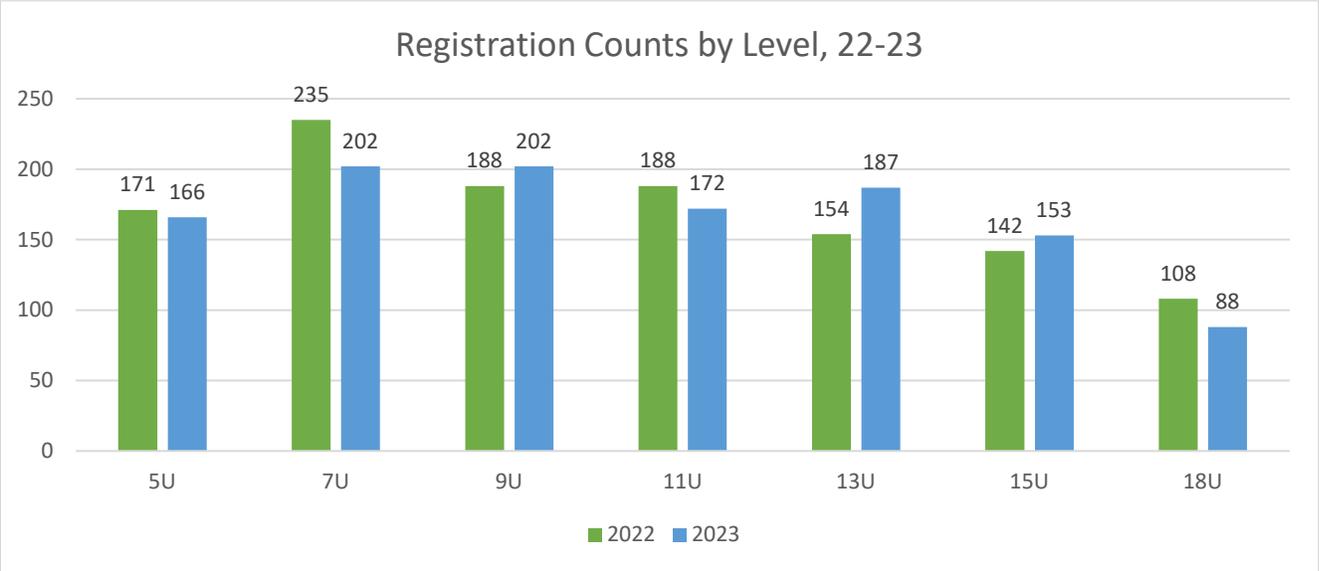
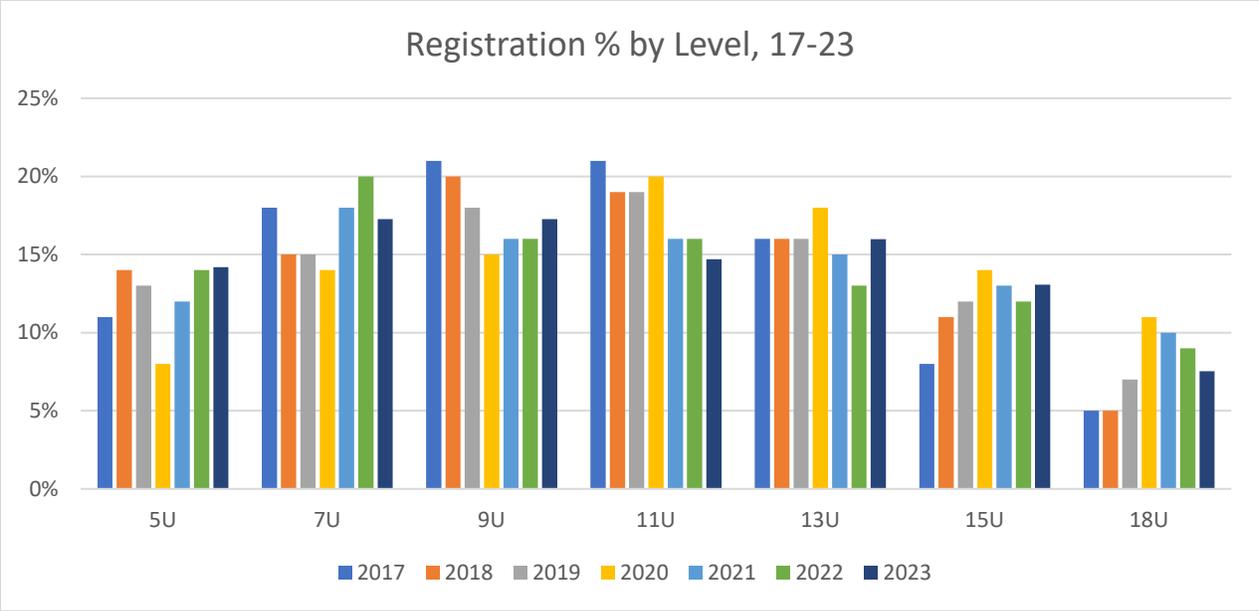
Below is a historical breakdown of DDMBA registration, 2023 saw a slight decrease in registration vs last year (down ~1%).

### Registered Players By Level

Year	5U	7U	9U	11U	13U	15U	18U	Challenger	Totals
2017	117	193	228	230	174	94	55		1,091
2018	162	178	225	220	189	132	46		1,152
2019	138	163	191	200	172	125	72		1,061
2020	57	100	109	141	130	95	81		713
2021	117	173	155	160	150	124	94		973
2022	171	235	188	188	154	142	108	11	1,197
2023	166	202	202	172	187	153	88	20	1,190

### Registered Players By Level %

Year	5U	7U	9U	11U	13U	15U	18U	Challenger	Totals
2017	11%	18%	21%	21%	16%	8%	5%		100%
2018	14%	15%	20%	19%	16%	11%	5%		100%
2019	13%	15%	18%	19%	16%	12%	7%		100%
2020	8%	14%	15%	20%	18%	14%	11%		100%
2021	12%	18%	16%	16%	15%	13%	10%		100%
2022	14%	20%	16%	16%	13%	12%	9%		100%
2023	14%	17%	17%	15%	16%	13%	8%		100%



**Finance:**

Total registration fees with Tryouts, Clinics and Tournaments exceeded \$287k.

**Major items of note:**

Credit Card costs, ~\$5,500, CCs continue to be more and more popular. The great news for us is legislation came out earlier this year allowed merchants to recover cc charges directly. RAMP added functionality to accommodate this fee about a month before registration, in the end we

under recovered by less than \$200 of the \$5,500. A substantial savings which goes directly back into baseball.

We also raised our registration fees this year with the across the board increase in umpire rates, BNS Insurance (from \$20 to \$30) and uptick in field costs. In the winter we did a forward-looking analysis, rolling forward all 2022 registered kids and assumed that was our 2023 base. From there we applied assumptions to determine the 23 season rates. Of note, field costs are increasing over the next two years and that is built into these increases.

Weather greatly impacted the 2023 season in several ways. From a finance perspective it meant less umpire costs given the number of rainouts. While difficult to fully quantify with the year over year umpire rate increases and change in number of teams, we did spend roughly \$5k less than our initial season estimate. Again, these savings go directly back to the associations.

Finally, the Arrows finished the year with ~\$9,500 in reserves, the winter clinic added ~7k top up.

## Report: Financial Statement (Jim Scott)

	Humber Park	Porters Lake	Cole Harbour	Diamond Dawgs	Eastern Passage	Arrows	Tryouts	Clinic		DDMBA	Total
<b>Registered Players</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>94</b>			<b>1,170</b>
<b>Income:</b>											
Gross Registration Revenue *	\$ 6,690	\$ 30,120	\$ 86,120	\$ 53,200	\$ 33,630	\$ 30,270	\$ 20,700	\$ 23,570	\$ 2,500	\$ 240	287,040
Less:											
Uncollected:	\$ (130)	\$ (1,030)	\$ (753)	\$ (2,217)	\$ (144)	(130)	(90)	-		-	(4,494)
Tryouts Fees											-
Family Discount	(155)	(430)	(1,138)	(491)	(528)	(473)	(243)	0	0	0	(3,458)
Misc Credits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,203	1,203
Credit Cards Charges/Recover	(3)	(30)	(67)	(31)	(29)	(20)	0	0	0	0	(181)
<b>Gross Funds for Distribution</b>	<b>6,402</b>	<b>28,630</b>	<b>84,162</b>	<b>50,461</b>	<b>32,929</b>	<b>29,647</b>	<b>20,367</b>	<b>23,570</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>280,110</b>
<b>Cost of Baseball:</b>											
<b>Game / Player Variable</b>											
<i>Umpire (Estimate / Actuals)</i>	\$ -	\$ 3,571	\$ 12,464	\$ 8,864	\$ 5,791	\$ 7,198	\$ 1,112	\$ -	\$ 1,160	\$ -	\$ 40,160
BNS Insurance/Admin	1,381	4,831	13,496	8,780	4,896	3,786	-	-	-	-	37,170
Arrows Equipment / Fields Rental						16,548	19,226	16,220	1,209	-	53,203
Arrows Storage						2,072	-	-	-	-	2,072
Playoffs/BNS League Fee	189	699	3,801	1,469	690	3,600	-	-	-	-	10,448
<b>Total Variable Costs</b>	<b>\$ 1,571</b>	<b>\$ 9,101</b>	<b>\$ 29,762</b>	<b>\$ 19,112</b>	<b>\$ 11,377</b>	<b>\$ 33,204</b>	<b>\$ 20,338</b>	<b>\$ 16,220</b>	<b>\$ 2,369</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 143,053</b>
<b>Fixed Costs</b>											
IT Costs	\$ 44	\$ 197	\$ 565	\$ 349	\$ 220	\$ 198	\$ 136	\$ 155	\$ -	\$ -	1,864
Accounting/System	\$ 47	\$ 212	\$ 606	\$ 374	\$ 237	\$ 213	\$ 146	\$ 166	\$ -	\$ -	2,000
DDMBA Bank Fees	\$ 12	\$ 55	\$ 156	\$ 97	\$ 61	\$ 55	\$ 38	\$ 43	\$ -	\$ -	516
Office & Admin	21	93	267	165	104	94	64	73	-	-	883
Rec Coordinator	18	188	416	194	184	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Umpire Assignor	-	310	1,310	870	500	700	-	-	-	240	3,930
<b>Allocated Fixed Costs</b>	<b>\$ 142</b>	<b>\$ 1,055</b>	<b>\$ 3,320</b>	<b>\$ 2,049</b>	<b>\$ 1,307</b>	<b>\$ 1,260</b>	<b>\$ 383</b>	<b>\$ 436</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 240</b>	<b>\$ 10,192</b>
<b>Surplus / Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 4,690</b>	<b>\$ 18,474</b>	<b>\$ 51,081</b>	<b>\$ 29,299</b>	<b>\$ 20,245</b>	<b>\$ (4,818)</b>	<b>\$ (354)</b>	<b>\$ 6,914</b>	<b>\$ 131</b>	<b>\$ 1,203</b>	<b>\$ 126,865</b>

## Report: Competitive Coordinator (Brian Secord)

1. Competitive Tryouts:
  - a. 240 players attended tryouts.
  - b. Try-outs were broken down into 3 Stages this year.
    - i. One Last Rep was used to do the initial skills evaluation.
    - ii. The second stage was more skills evaluation on the Cole Harbour turf field.
    - iii. The final stage was on field game style evaluations.
  - c. Skill Shark was used to track each player's evaluation scores.
  - d. Overall, the tryout process was very in-depth with each player being evaluated on multiple times and ways.
  - e. As with any year there were lessons learned by all and some changes will be made again for next year. There will be an Evaluation Committee formed after the AGM.
2. There were 9 Arrow's teams this year.
  - a. 11U AA.
  - b. 11U AAA.
  - c. 13U AA.
  - d. 15U A.
  - e. 15U AA.
  - f. 15U AAA.
  - g. 18U A. and
  - h. 18U AAA.
3. We ran winter camps at OLR for all age groups that went for 10 weeks. We will be running them again this winter in the new year.
4. Repairs continued the Beazley Batting Cages. The netting has been replaced along with a new shed has been bought and installed in the cage to replace the old wooded one.
5. We have procured 3 new storage bins to be placed at Little Beazley, Kinsman, and Conrad fields. These will be stocked with bases, and lining equipment. This will allow teams to have the fields properly setup for each game without having to carry the gear themselves.
6. We have moved to a new storage unit that will have more room and allow for better storage of all the equipment.
7. After the AGM, the 2024 season will be starting with the start of the open coaching positions selection process.

## **Report: Recreation Coordinator (Kim Pitre)**

Regular season - Being my first year as the Rec Coordinator, I found the 2023 DDMBA baseball season a challenging one with the unexpected rainfall in the HRM area. With HRM closing field access, the challenge then became having to cancel and reschedule the recreational games which caused the workload to be double. Working alongside all the club presidents was a great experience as all of them were extremely supportive and patient with my learning the process of scheduling. The umpire assignor and I had a very effective system to confirm we were properly rescheduling all the games for the clubs.

Recreational playoffs - I think posting the playoff schedule separate from the regular season made for a more organized tournament making it easier to find on the DDMBA website for coaches and parents. I found scheduling to be a bit of a challenge again as the forecast was not cooperating. We had to postpone one weekend of playoffs for an entire week. However, working closely with the ump assignor, we managed to get them all in and finished.

## **Report: Umpire Assignor (Jamie Aalders)**

My first year as assignor was quite the experience. Unfortunately, we had a lot of rainouts which caused a lot of rescheduling but thankfully I had a lot of great umpires who helped cover the games.

We only had two games all season where umpers could not make it. We had 57 umpers who did at least 5 games this year and 47 who did 10 plus. We had quite a few new umpers this year which was fantastic and all they all did a great job.

Only real issue I ran into was a lot of the new umpires played u15 so days that they played were tougher to get all the games covered.

On top of the regular season and playoffs we hosted 7 tournaments plus 6 provincials. Playoffs and provincials on the same weekends were challenging but we got them all covered.

One thing I would like to see next year is a reduction in parent and coaches' interactions with the umpires. Unfortunately, there were too many instances of coaches/parent arguing or yelling at the umpires. This is the main reason why they don't return and without umpers we can't play.

Thank you to all the umpires who stepped up this year and to the parents who made sure they were there.

## **Report: Cole Harbour President (Rob MacNeill)**

After numerous years of growth Cole Harbour registration numbers leveled off. This season we had 428 Cardinal players in Recreation and 'A' levels along with 50 of the 113 Arrows players being from Cole Harbour.

It goes without saying rain was a significant factor this season. CHMBA was proud to have rescheduled as much as possible. Special thanks to DDMBA Rec Coordinator Kim Pitre and Umpire Assignor Jamie Aalders for their hard work scheduling and rescheduling the regular season and playoffs.

This season Cole Harbour continued holding extra events including:

- coach's training by Robert Gillis at the start of the season.
- the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Bird Classic Tournament for U11 and U13 Recreation divisions.
- catcher clinics led by Todd Parker.
- coach and volunteer year end softball game and party.
- and our big year end celebration for the U5/7/9 age groups

We also added a special weekend field day for the U5 and U7 age groups for skill development and fun which we hope to continue again next season.

On the field our older teams reached new levels of success! Congrats to the following teams:

- U9 Major Field – CH Cup Champions
- U11 Black Kellestine - Tier 1 Silver medalists
- U11 Red Hunter - Tier 2 Champions
- U11 Grey Aymar - Tier 2 Silver medalists
- U13 Blue Janes/Gallant - Tier 1 Silver medalists
- U13 Red Tanton - Tier 2 Champions
- U18 Black Aalders - Champions
- U11 'A' Janes – Tier 3 Provincial Champions
- U13 'A' MacKenzie – Tier 3 Provincial Champions
- U13 'A' MacNeill – Tier 2 Provincial Champions

As a large association administered by a few, CHMBA relies on the passion of leaders in each age group to facilitate Cardinal ball, so we continue to thrive. Special thanks to Lauren Gordon, Nate Langille, Craig Field, Robert Gillis, and Chris Hunter who not only coach their teams but also coordinate their age groups.

Finally, we want to extend our thanks to all coaches and team volunteers who sacrifice their time, so our Cardinal players have a fun season of ball! THANK YOU ALL!

## **Report: Diamond Dawgs President (Jeff Scott)**

The Diamond Dawgs 2023 season was a success despite the unprecedented rain and the challenges it posed to the season. The Diamond Dawgs continued to attract membership at all levels with registration up slightly year over year. We hosted our first U18 team in several years and added a 4<sup>th</sup> 15U team.

The Diamond Dawgs Blue Jays Rally Cap program was a success again this year. We maintained our record high registration at the 5U and 7U level but were challenged with a low number of volunteers and lack of support from BNS. We have identified areas that we will continue to improve and would like to encourage more parent participation on the field in the coming years.

The Diamond Dawgs Challenger program was a huge success in its 2nd season. Player registration significantly increased as well as volunteer support. Over 40 players were registered this season. In August, we sponsored 3 players to attend the National Jamboree at Rogers Centre in Toronto and it was very special event for all players, buddies and volunteers who attended. The program has been very rewarding for all involved. Brian Moore, our Challenger Baseball Champion was honored with the 2023 Baseball Nova Scotia Challenger Baseball Award.

We continue to look for opportunities to add to our infrastructure and improve city facilities for our players. This year we started a Jersey refresh with a new “Dartmouth” logo incorporating the “DD” logo that our association is so recognizable for. Our Woodside Training Facility continues to be a great development resource for both Recreational and Competitive teams and had an increase in use this season.

The 2023 season did provide several challenges with inclement weather and rainouts, volunteer shortages, and team disparity at several levels.

- Weather - We did our best to provide additional field time for practices and games and extended the season into September for our younger age groups due to the rain.
- Volunteers - We continue to struggle to attract volunteers for our teams and early in the season had to recruit new coaches at U9, U11 and U13. The volunteers that we had, once again did a great job and made us proud. The VIP Program was a great success with an 80% participation rate.
- Team Disparity – This Fall, we will be creating an independent committee to review and make recommendations to the DD Board on the team selection process.

Overall, Diamond Dawg coaches, players, and parents were happy and enjoyed the season, despite the rain. The Diamond Dawgs board expanded to 10 members and had representation at each age level this season. There will be some changes in the coming months but have no doubt the new board will work hard to continue to improve the baseball experience for our members.

A very special thanks to Chris Cluett, who will not be reoffering at the end of this term. Chris has been an integral member and leader on the Diamond Dawgs Board for over 10 years and will be missed.

On behalf of our entire membership and Board, the Diamond Dawgs family would like to thank the DDMBA Board that have helped guide us through this challenging season.

### **Report: Eastern Passage (Jason Lombard)**

Overall, the season went great, despite all the rain we received this summer. Our teams did well in Playoffs with 2 Golds (U11 Yellow & U15) and a Silver (U18).

A huge thank you to all our coaches for their dedication over the years. After a decade with Eastern Passage Minor Baseball, Jason (President) and Dominique (Vice President) have retired. We will help with the transition into the 2024 season.

We held our AGM on October 12th and were fortunate enough to establish a new Executive board consisting of 10 positions. We wish everyone the best of luck in their new roles.

GO PIRATES

### **Report: Humber Park (Albert Sarracini) – represented by Ashley Helmkey**

The 2023 Season was a success despite our association continuing to have low registration numbers. We did see an increase in numbers at the lower levels and were able to field a 5U and 7U team with a total of 28 kids, and a 9U team with 16 players (many of whom played the first “game” this season). We are also excited to share that exactly half of our registrants were girls (60% at the 5U/7U).

We successfully ran the Rally Cap Program for the 2nd season in a row, complete with yearend evaluations. We saw many of our returning players improve 2-3 skill levels on their progress report over the season and the multi station practice/game format continues to work well. Most kids still prefer the practice stations over the short games at the younger levels – so we tend to only incorporate games once a week into practice vs 2 nights.

A suggestion we thought of was to potentially consider a game night at the end of the season for 7U rally cap teams to play another association (like Rally Cap format) to give those kids who are moving up to the 9U level a chance to experience paying another team, but also for associations to learn from one another and see how everyone is running their rally cap games.

We hosted our year end party at CHP for all our teams with a private swim, followed by pizza, cake and awards. It was a big success and well attended.

We continue to struggle to recruit board members and lack a lot of support in this area. However, our very small group of volunteers managed to pull off another fun, successful season and we have many kids who hope to return for another season in 2024. We do want to thank our coaches and volunteers who did help this season, and we also wanted to thank some of the coaches from other associations who were willing to offer tips and guidance to our new to 9U coaches during the team's first season.

### **Report: Porters Lake (Lorri Arnold)**

First and foremost, Porter's Lake Association would like to thank all our volunteer coaches and board members for their time and dedication to our community. We thank our members for their patience with our weather challenges this season. We're happy to report a successful season had by all our Porters Lake teams. We tried our best to extend the season to make up for missed rain outs.

We had two large U5 & U7 groups this season. There were both benefits and challenges with running these larger teams. We will be reviewing our group sizes for next season and determine what will work best for the club.

Our numbers and talent allowed us to have two U9 Teams. A major and a minor team. We received a lot of positive feedback on the development in this division.

U11 was made up of both new to baseball and returning players. With the challenges of learning a new sport the team did well, finishing in the middle of the pack.

The U13 division was also fortunate enough to have two teams. Both teams were successful in their 16-game season with one team finishing 3rd.

U15 team started off small and mighty with just enough players but the team quickly increased in size and finished middle of the pack.

Unfortunately, we couldn't offer a U18 team this season. We are hopeful in the coming years this is a level we will be able to offer. As with anything, there is always room for improvement. Just a reminder that our club is made up of all volunteers, and we're always looking for ways and members to improve.

## **New Business**

Open Floor Period to Membership

## **Nominations and Elections for open Executive Positions**

- Treasurer/ Registrar - Jim Scott has reoffered: **Acclaimed (Brian S and Jeff S)**
- Recreation Co-ordinator – Kim Pitre has reoffered: **Acclaimed (Lorri R and Jeff S)**
- Vice President – Noone present at AGM came forward. Will email open position to membership and the vote will happen at next Board Meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8pm**