

**DDMBA Annual General Meeting**

**Date: November 5, 2024**

**Time: 7pm**

**Location: CHP – Harbour Room**

## Annual General Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the AGM Agenda – **Motioned by Mark R. – Second by Lorri A.**
3. Approval of Minutes from the previous AGM of November 14, 2023 - **Motioned by Mark R. – Second by Will A.**

- Scan the code below to access past AGM documents:



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

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

Mother Nature was kind to DDMBA in 2024 and overall, a solid season of baseball took place.

### **REGISTRATION**

**Registration increased to an all-time high of 1255 exceeding the 2023 sum and seventy [70] total DDMBA associated teams from U9 to U18 resulted.**

**The positive baseball playing trend is apparent as registered players have increased each year from 2020-2024 moving from 713 to 973 to 1185 to 1255 registered players.**

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.

However, with increased registration numbers also comes the **need for more fields** to allow the teams to practice and play an adequate amount of time. The DDMBA catchment area is at its limit.

### **RECREATION LEVEL**

A “normal” season of baseball was able to be played in 2024 with a full, robust **Recreation level** containing **fifty-four [54] recreation teams** playing among the U9 minor [12], U9 major [4], U11 [11], U13 [12], U15 [8] and U18 [7] levels an increase over the 2022 levels.

**League winners** were crowned at all **Recreation levels** behind the guidance of Recreation Coordinator **Kim Pitre**. A special thank you is extended to Kim who will not be re-offering in her role. A thank you is also extended to umpire assignor **Jamie Alders** who along with Kim spent many hours scheduling games and umpires to make the recreation season happen.

The March 25, 2023 **Recreation Baseball Summit** held by Baseball Nova Scotia with participants from around the province resulted in various recommendations for ways to improve the Recreation level. BNS pledged to bring in standards to be used across-the-province such as club licensing, consistently applied rules, recreation coaching requirements, criminal record check policy and overall technical support for the recreation level. BNS has stated the scope of

recommendations were too much to implement for 2024 but there will be provincial-wide streamlining in 2025.

**The Coaching Manual & Practice Plan was updated for 2024 and a pre-season meeting with DDMBA coaches was held on June 2, 2024.** It was held at Dartmouth Sportsplex with the goal to better prepare coaches for the coming season. Approximately **40 coaches** attended the meeting co-chaired by the DDMBA President and Recreation Co-ordinator Kim Pitre. The Manual/Plan were reviewed, all questions answered as best we could in the allotted time and the playoff format discussed. Playoff tournaments were set to run on consecutive August weekends with two age levels per weekend. That goal was accomplished. This pre-season meeting should be mandatory.

In the season-ending **2023 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 was canvassed at the DDMBA Executive meetings and **new 2024 standards were created** and employed in terms of team selection process along with a pre-season exhibition period of play. The 2024 feedback received was these strategies worked and teams were balanced appropriately.

## **COMPETITIVE LEVEL**

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

At the **Competitive level** there were sixteen [16] DDMBA A, AA and AAA teams with the **Arrows** program fielding a total of ten [10] teams. The breakdown was AA and AAA teams being fielded at the U11, U13, U15 and U18 levels and Arrows A teams also being fielded at the U15 and U18 levels.

As well, Cole Harbour fielded two [2] A level teams at both the U11 and U13 levels and an A level team at the U15 level. Porters Lake fielded an A level team at the 11U level for an additional total of six [6] competitive teams.

Six [6] DDMBA competitive teams **medaled at BNS provincials** including Arrows teams winning gold at the U11AA Tier 1 and 15UAAA levels along with Cole Harbour winning gold at U11A Tier 2 level with CH also winning silver at that level [an all CH final]. Arrows provincial silver medalists were awarded at U13AA and U15AA levels.

That means of the thirty [30] BNS provincial championships run by Baseball Nova Scotia, DDMBA teams achieved gold or silver in six a **20% overall medaling percentage** - a great showing reflective of years of player and coaching dedication.

Additionally, the 11UAA, 11UAAA and 15UAAA Arrows teams represented Nova Scotia at Atlantic Championships with the **11UAAA team winning the Atlantic Championship** as the host team on John Russell field in CH and the 15UAAA team winning silver in Kentville.

DDMBA based individuals will be honored at the annual **Baseball Nova Scotia awards banquet** to be held on November 9, 2024 where the following individuals will be recognized [congrats!]:

- Gavin Bernard – Minor Male Athlete [Arrows 15UAAA];
- Katie Hagen – Major Female Athlete [former Arrow];
- Ashley Helmkey - Grassroots Coach of the Year [Humber Park];
- Pablo Peraza-Richard – Challenger Buddy Baseball award.

### **EXECUTIVE/SPECIAL PROJECTS**

DDMBA was blessed with an **excellent Executive and Board again in 2024**. Each member performed their role at a high level and were very responsive to issues/inquiries from membership.

The third year of using the **interactive RAMP program** championed by BNS found more improvements in scheduling and communication. However, a few bugs still remain to be ironed out on game re-scheduling and technical support was lacking at times but overall, the system is a solid one. Thanks to many who make the system work for DDMBA including Treasurer/Registrar **Jim Scott**, Secretary **Donnie MacDonald** and Florida-based Bluenoser **Darren Hunter**.

**Special project – 2023 into 2024 - the Beazley batting cage/storage shed** was identified as requiring rejuvenation. The existing 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, rake etc. The overall capital expenditure for the project was determined to be approximately \$7500. Funding was sought by the President and obtained in 2023. Netting was installed in September 2023 and survived well in 2024. In 2024, the three lockboxes were installed at Little Beazley, Kinsman and Conrad ballfields and were used daily to house bases, liners, grooming tools and flour.

In October-November 2023 Brian Secord, Will Secord, Tim Hoskin, Jason Lombard and I spent dozens of hours **building a new polymer permanent shed**. However, the ravages of the Beazley field wind tunnel blew in early 2024 creating a total structure failure. Fortunately, the lock boxes provided good support for each field until a wood structure can be installed in the cage.

**Brian Secord was able to secure an approximately \$10 000 donation** for new turf for the Beazley cage from **Casey Concrete** and **Tim Hoskin** through his company **TLS Property Services** installed the turf. Plaques of thanks will be placed in the cage. Brian also secured a top-of-the-line L-screen for the cage.

The cage is now totally rejuvenated, looks fantastic and will be used daily by DDMBA teams for years to come. A **\$100 annual charge per each Arrows team** has been budgeted with funds earmarked for ongoing maintenance of the Beazley batting cage and satellite fields.

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

**Several topics were discussed including:**

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

However, **in 2024 HRM failed to implement** any of the targeted issues noted above. DDMBA will continue to communicate with HRM and will follow up until we receive satisfaction.

## **DISCIPLINE/CRC/VIP**

From a **Discipline standpoint**, the President chaired the **Discipline Committee** with Vice President **Brandon Purcell** and Secretary **Donnie MacDonald**.

June and July were relatively quiet months with a few intra-team player discipline/sportsmanship issues dealt with internally with team issued one game suspensions.

However, August exploded with discipline matters at the 18U Recreation level where continued verbal abuse by players to umpires is very discouraging in particular with under age 18 “green arm band” umpires involved.

**Overall, at the U18 recreation level seven [7] suspensions were issued in August, 2024** including three [3] game suspensions issued to two [2] Eastern Passage coaches and three [3] game suspensions issued to two [2] Eastern Passage players. As well, two [2] game suspensions were issued to three [3] Cole Harbour players. When looked at for the total amount of games played seven [7] suspensions may not appear to be a large sum but the factual investigations were time consuming and just one incident is too many. As well, approximately a dozen additional inquiries were fielded from parents involving complaints of overhearing players swearing at umps, alcohol use at the field as well as a complaint levied against an umpire who called a game due to verbal abuse.

**I recommend harsh penalties be implemented early in 2025** to stem the rising tide of U18 disrespect as 2 or 3 game suspensions do not seem to be a deterrent. Suspensions to the point of a season long suspension may be necessary to act as an effective deterrent.

Despite the suspensions, overall there is solid messaging going to players from DDMBA and member clubs provided by the Co-ordinators, Club Presidents and coaches. It is at the **parent level** that respect for umpires needs to be fostered.

**DDMBA supports BNSUD in demanding a zero-tolerance environment for umpire abuse.** The green arm band policy was again followed for age 18 and under umpire incidents with the above-noted three [3] game suspensions involving an increase from the typical two [2] games with the additional green arm band one [1] additional game suspension tacked on.

From a **Safety standpoint**, the **DDMBA Criminal Record Check policy** was followed again. The difference in 2024 from 2023 was the DDMBA member clubs monitored the CRC's and reported a summary to the President by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

In prior seasons the system of compliance predominantly used "myBackCheck" which did continue in 2024. However, the **VIP coaching platform** was again passed along to members who were able to use the 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 also awards gifts/swag after program completion.

**BNS will be taking over CRC compliance in 2025 at all levels - 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.

I would like to extend a **personal thank you to Executive members** who are who are stepping back from their roles including DDMBA Secretary **Donnie MacDonald**, Recreation co-ordinator **Kim Pitre** and Cole Harbour President **Rob MacNeill** who have each volunteered several years of service to make baseball in 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. Thank you!

**I will also not be re-offering as DDMBA President.** I initially volunteered for the DDMBA Executive starting in 2009 as a VP for North Central Green Sox [now part of Diamond Dawgs]. I later served a three-year term as DDMBA VP from 2016-2018 and finally have now completed two terms totalling three years as President from 2022-2024. It has been my privilege to have served in this role and I thank my Executive members for making my role easier to manage.

#### **A few points I would like to leave with DDMBA members:**

- In my fifteen [15] year journey as a DDMBA baseball coach and administrator, I have yet to come across a player who developed better with an “interventionist” parent. Let the player create his own path through hard work and rise or fall on his own - it feels better;
- I believe Club and Executive members perform their role because they want to help make the baseball experience better for the kids and leave things better than they found it – please listen to them as they really do know what they are doing;
- I have yet to see an umpire change a call because of being yelled at from the stands by a parent – please sit back and enjoy watching your son/daughter play this great game;
- I have also yet to see a player have a call go their way after they became annoyed at or swore at an umpire – be respectful and you will be remembered.

#### **EXECUTIVE POSITION ELECTIONS**

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.

The following **five [5] positions are up for election** at the 2024 AGM:

- Recreation Co-ordinator – Kim Pitre is the incumbent – she is not re-offering – open for vote.



- Competitive Co-ordinator – Brian Secord is the incumbent – he IS re-offering – if contested a vote will occur.
- Secretary – Donnie MacDonald – he is not re-offering – open for vote.
- Associate Registrar/Treasurer – a position is open to work with incumbent Jim Scott for 2025.
- President – Mark Raftus – is not re-offering – open for vote.

I thank you again for your trust in me during my term as DDMBA President.

I anticipate continued further growth and fun times in 2025.



Mark Raftus  
DDMBA President 2022-24

### **Report: DDMBA Vice President (Brandon Purcell)**

During my first year as Vice President of DDMBA, I had various duties and tasks designated to me that included but weren't limited to:

- Attend monthly meetings to examine new topics not mentioned at previous meetings.
- Address any problems/ issues that require attention or action from the executive board and its members.
- Discuss new rules or policies as well as any updates.
- Communicate with organizations and businesses to talk about new opportunities.
- Review incident reports that we received from umpires regarding players, coaches, or spectators and take action if required as part of the discipline committee.
- Communicate with Baseball Nova Scotia members.

After being voted into the position of Vice President in February I was eased into the duties of the position for the first couple of months while I reviewed minutes and notes from previous meetings. I was assigned a few small tasks to give me a better idea of what to expect from the position and how to complete everyday duties and projects. Once I got my feet under me in the

position, I was assigned additional tasks and was given the ability to pursue tasks on my own. My first solo project was to explore an opportunity that would allow parents and fans the ability to live-stream games and tournaments for various age groups, we were unfortunately unable to reach an agreement with the company that would have worked for both parties, but I am optimistic that we will be able to present this idea again at a later date and have the potential to implement it for future seasons once we have time to discuss and review any challenges associated with the live streaming process. The remainder of my time with DDMBA was spent as a member of the discipline committee where a small group of members would discuss situations and issues presented to us by umpires. Depending on the situation we would deliberate and if needed we would vote on the best course of action, whether that might be a warning or a suspension. During my short time with DDMBA, it's been great to be part of a group of people that helps to create a positive environment for so many children and youth. I would like to thank everyone for the amazing work they did this season and I can't wait to continue assisting the association moving forward to achieve their goals and continue to help create additional positive experiences for even more youth in the future.

### Report: DDMBA Registrar (Jim Scott)

We registered almost 1,300 kids this year!

Below is a historical breakdown of DDMBA registration, 2024 was a growth year with an increase of over 100 players, 8% over 2023. Registration started fast, we reached the 2023 total by May and the last few weeks were an exercise in moving players around and trying to find spots with the increased numbers space was very tight.

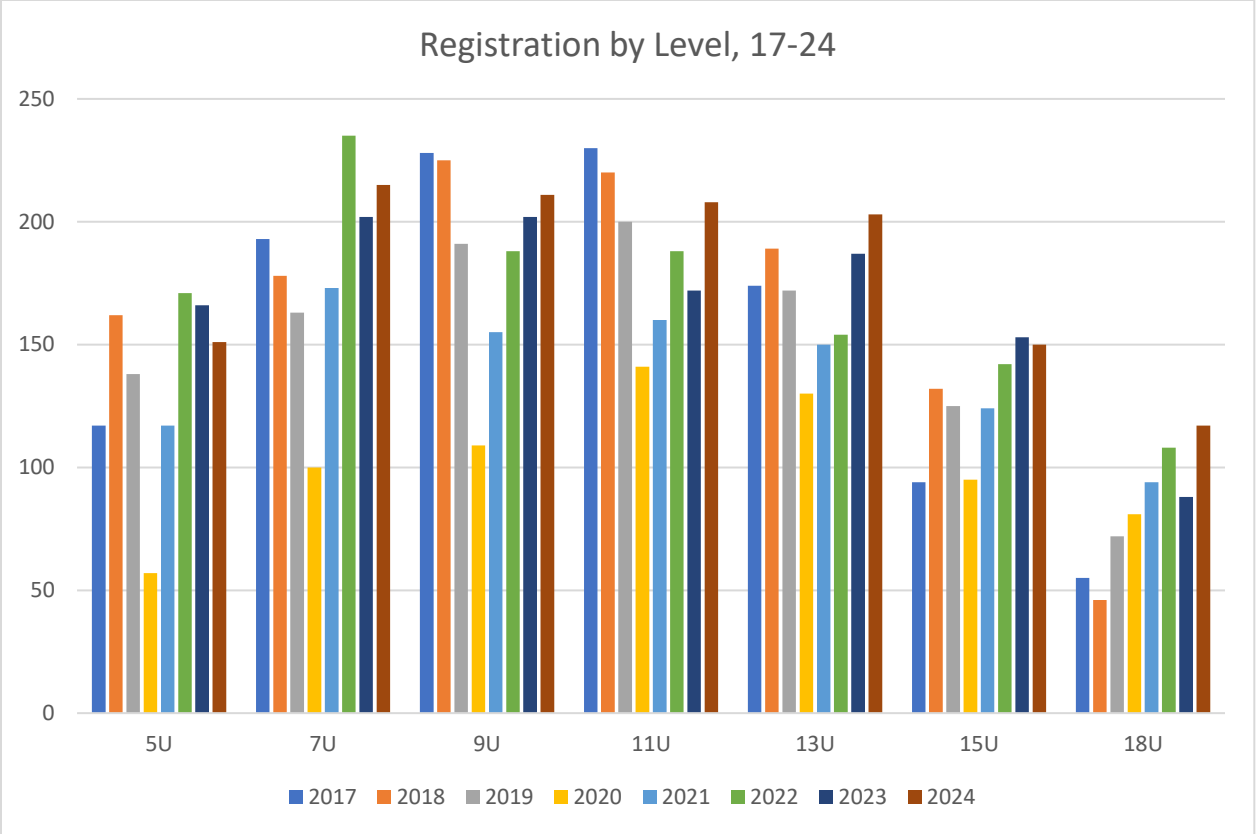
Overall, the percentages per age group have remained very consistent over the last few years even with the overall increase in player counts.

#### 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
2024	151	215	211	208	203	150	117	40	1,295

#### 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%



**Finance:**

Total registration fees with Tryouts, Clinics exceeded \$360k.

**Major items of note:**

Umpire Fees over \$42k but this was \$9k less than our estimate (12 home games X full umpire rates per each team). This estimate logic will be looked at for 2025 as the total estimate has been over actuals by a wide margin for two straight years. Divers in that difference are games not made up and single umpires vs two, reducing the rate.

Credit Card costs, over \$6k CC's continue to be more and more popular. We have a recovery rate estimate built in but was a bit low as we under-recovered by \$900. This rate will have to increase in 2025 to get closer to full recovery, it's hard to nail down as each card charges us a different fee.

BNS Insurance has been below our estimate for two years in a row, no complaints!

Recreation playoffs costs increased mainly on volume of teams / players and usual inflationary pressure.

Finally, the Arrows finished the year with ~\$5,700 in reserves before accounting for the current fall camp which started a few weeks ago.

## Report: Financial Statement (Jim Scott)

	Humber Park	Porters Lake	Cole Harbour	Diamond Dawgs	Eastern Passage	Arrows	Tryouts	Clinic	Challenger Ball	DDMBA	Total
<b>Registered Players</b>	61	165	427	282	196	124	248	-	40		1,255
<b>Registered Players, U9 up</b>	26	97	309	181	152	-					765
<b>Registered Players, Unassigned</b>											-
<b>Teams</b>	1	5	18	10	9	10					53
**Assume 2 coaches and 1 administor per team											
<b>Income:</b>											
Gross Registration Revenue	\$ 11,050	\$ 31,110	\$ 87,750	\$ 56,740	\$ 42,160	\$ 33,670	\$ 22,500	\$ 31,800		\$ (980)	315,800
Family Discount	\$ (285)	\$ (331)	\$ (1,412)	\$ (559)	\$ (515)	\$ (394)	\$ (270)				(3,766)
Less:											
Uncollected:	\$ (827)	\$ (480)	\$ (840)	\$ (1,665)	\$ (360)	\$ -	\$ (90)				(4,262)
Misc Credits											0
Credit Cards Charges/Recover	(34)	(96)	(272)	(176)	(130)	(104)	(70)	(98)		980	0
Association Net Adjustments		(1,069)	(25)	(220)							(1,314)
<b>Gross Funds for Distribution</b>	<b>9,904</b>	<b>29,134</b>	<b>85,201</b>	<b>54,120</b>	<b>41,155</b>	<b>33,172</b>	<b>22,070</b>	<b>31,702</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>307,772</b>
<b>Cost of Baseball:</b>											
<b>Game / Player Variable</b>											
Umpire Cost	\$ 740	\$ 2,935	\$ 14,735	\$ 8,575	\$ 6,725	\$ 8,125				\$ 240	\$ 42,075
BNS Insurance/Admin	1,854	5,016	12,980	8,572	5,958	3,769				-	38,150
Arrows Equipment / Fields Rental	-	-	-	-	-	14,352	18,398	27,048		-	59,798
Rec Playoffs	392	1,463	4,659	2,729	2,292	-				-	11,535
Arrows Storage	-	-	-	-	-	2,760				-	2,760
BNS League Fee	-	400	2,000	-	-	4,000				-	6,400
<b>Total Variable Costs</b>	<b>\$ 2,986</b>	<b>\$ 9,813</b>	<b>\$ 34,374</b>	<b>\$ 19,876</b>	<b>\$ 14,975</b>	<b>\$ 33,006</b>	<b>\$ 18,398</b>	<b>\$ 27,048</b>		<b>\$ 240</b>	<b>\$ 160,717</b>
<b>Fixed Costs</b>											
IT Costs	\$ 82	\$ 232	\$ 589	\$ 381	\$ 283	\$ 226	\$ 151	\$ 213		\$ -	2,158
Accounting/System	\$ 70	\$ 196	\$ 554	\$ 358	\$ 266	\$ 213	\$ 142	\$ 201		\$ -	2,000
DDMBA Bank Fees	\$ 30	\$ 85	\$ 240	\$ 155	\$ 115	\$ 92	\$ 61	\$ 87		\$ -	866
Office & Admin	32	91	256	166	123	98	66	93		-	924
Rec Cordinator	108	292	755	499	347	-	-	-		-	2,000
Umpire Assignor	73	392	1,773	912	779	1,400	-	-		-	5,330
<b>Allocated Fixed Costs</b>	<b>\$ 396</b>	<b>\$ 1,288</b>	<b>\$ 4,167</b>	<b>\$ 2,471</b>	<b>\$ 1,913</b>	<b>\$ 2,029</b>	<b>\$ 420</b>	<b>\$ 594</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 13,278</b>
<b>Surplus / Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 6,522</b>	<b>\$ 18,032</b>	<b>\$ 46,660</b>	<b>\$ 31,773</b>	<b>\$ 24,267</b>	<b>\$ (1,863)</b>	<b>\$ 3,252</b>	<b>\$ 4,060</b>		<b>\$ (240)</b>	<b>\$ 133,776</b>
<b>PMT # 1</b>	<b>\$ (4,500)</b>	<b>\$ (8,000)</b>	<b>\$ (30,000)</b>	<b>\$ (14,000)</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>	<b>\$ (6,438)</b>					<b>\$ (72,938)</b>
<b>PMT # 2</b>	<b>\$ (1,000)</b>	<b>\$ (2,000)</b>	<b>\$ (5,000)</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>	<b>\$ (3,000)</b>						<b>\$ (21,000)</b>
<b>PMT # 3</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (5,000)</b>	<b>\$ (6,000)</b>	<b>\$ (4,000)</b>	<b>\$ (7,000)</b>						<b>\$ (22,000)</b>
<b>PMT # 4</b>	<b>\$ (1,022)</b>	<b>\$ (3,032)</b>	<b>\$ (5,660)</b>	<b>\$ (3,773)</b>	<b>\$ (4,267)</b>						<b>\$ (17,754)</b>
13											\$ -
<b>Balance Due</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ (8,301)</b>	<b>\$ 3,252</b>	<b>\$ 4,060</b>		<b>\$ (240)</b>	<b>\$ (1,230)</b>

## Report: Competitive Coordinator (Brian Secord)

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1. Competitive Tryouts:
  - a. 250 players attended tryouts.
    - i. 18U = 49
    - ii. 15U = 59
    - iii. 13U = 62
    - iv. 11U = 72
  - 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 10 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.
  - h. 18U AA and
  - i. 18U AAA.

3. We ran winter camps at OLR for all age groups that went for 12 weeks. We will be running them again this winter in the new year.
4. Repairs continued the Beazley Batting Cages. The new shed that was purchased last year didn't survive the winter and had to be scrapped. New turf has been installed. This was made possible by a very generous donation by Casey Concrete Dartmouth of the turf, spikes, and the silica. The Hoskins at TLS Property Service donated their time to expertly remove the old turf and install the new turf. Along with the new to us "L" screen, The Arrows now has a very serviceable batting cage.
5. The 3 new storage bins have been 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. The 2024 season was a very successful one for the Arrows. Well done to all Arrows teams.
  - a. 11U AAA – Won the Bluenose League, hosted and won Atlantic's
  - b. 11U AA – Participated in Atlantic's in Newfoundland.
  - c. 13U AA – Won the Bluenose League
  - d. 15U AAA – Won the Bluenose League and won the Silver at Atlantics.
  - e. 15U AA - Won the Bluenose League and settled for the Silver at Provincials in an exceptional 1-0 nine inning final.
7. Congratulations to the Baseball Nova Scotia award winners from DDMBA and Arrows;
  - a. Minor Male Athlete of the Year – Gavin Benard from 15U AAA,
  - b. Major Female Athlete of the Year – Katie Hagen,
  - c. Grassroots Coach of the Year – Ashley Helmkey,
  - d. Challenger Buddy – Pablo Peraza-Richard.
8. Fall Camp has started for the 18U at OLR with the Winter Camps for all age groups starting in January 2025. Registration will open after the AGM.
9. After the AGM, coaching selection process will begin with the solicitation and selection of coaches.
10. Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers that helped make the 2024 season a great year. Looking forward to getting back on the field with the start of tryouts in April.

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

The DDMBA 2024 season had 54 recreational teams in 2024 from ages U9 Minor to U18, and one U18 team from Halifax Minor Baseball Association. This season started off with preseason games between all the clubs in early July, then moved into regular season games. I feel to would be beneficial for more pitching education prior to the regular season starting at the club levels. Once coaches get into playoffs, they would have a better understanding of the rules at every age.

RAMP (scheduling system) was difficult to navigate this season with entering the regular season games. So therefore, they had to be manually inputted into the system which was very time consuming. On a better note, the weather held off for most part during the regular season and moving into playoffs. The playoff schedule was a bit delayed posting, as we were waiting on HRM for available fields, but eventually it was released & posted on the DDMBA site. Playoffs went off without weather concerns or delays. We had to issue one forfeit due to a pitch violation.

Medals were orders at Cole Harbour Trophies & Awards Medals, with 200 MVP, 160 Gold, 160 Silver plus neck ribbons. Every coach picked up a playoff package that contained pitch count sheets, candy for the players and player of the game medals for round robin games. Medals were also provided for first and second place teams at every level U13-U18.

DDMBA was able to secure player of the game cards thanks to Domino's Pizza this season for over 1200 players (rec and rep). These were used throughout the regular season for the POTG awards.

I have had a great time these past two years, working along side some amazing people that have helped me tremendously, with understanding this game, scheduling, and better organizing a mass amount of teams in this organization. It has some taught me to help lead coaches to a better understanding of the game as well. Unfortunately, I will not be offering to return for the 2025 season, but will be happy to train the incoming member of the board for an easy transition.

Kindly,

Kim Pitre  
DDMBA  
Rec Coordinator



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

This year we had another successful year of integrating new umpires. We used over 70 umpires this year which was up from last year. We lost a few experienced umpires from last season, so we relied on newer umpires to manage all the games, and they did a great job.

The ramp system works great, but we still have a few issues with umpires not updating their availability and responding to assignment on time. This creates a lot of extra work for me but there were a handful of umpires who took on extra games to help me on short notice.

I would like to see more support from BNSUD especially with new umpires. This year Jarrod Conrad stepped up and did a great job getting out to work with new umpires which was the only help we got for them.

We still had too many incidents with coaches, players and fans acting negatively towards umpires. I was happy how DDMBA handled these incidents and have the umpire's backs.

Overall, it was another great year, and we added a lot of new umpires who have bright futures.

Thank you

Jamie Aalders

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

This season we had 435 Cardinal players in Recreation and 'A' levels along with 64 of the 125 Arrows players being from Cole Harbour (428 and 50 of 113 in 2023).

Mostly blue skies allowed for some incredible ball including our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual 11u and 13u Redbird Classic and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 9u Major Tournament.

CHMBA also continued holding special events including:

- 5u/7u field day in July with Dartmouth Renegades 22u as guest coaches
- catcher clinics led by Todd Parker
- coach and volunteer year end
- and our big year end celebration for the 5u/7u/9u age groups

Congrats to the following Cardinal teams on their 2023 success:

- 9u Major Gillis – CH Cup Champions

- 11u Red Hunter - Tier 1 League & HMB Classic Tournament Champions
- 11u Black McCarrol – Tier 2 League Silver Medalists
- 11u A Black Arsenault – Tier 2 Provincial & Moncton Bob Donahoe Tournament Champions
- 11u A Red Mattatall – Tier 2 Provincial Silver Medalists
- 13u A Blue O’Brien – Tier 2 League Silver Medalists
- 15u Red Tanton – League Silver Medalists

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 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 summer of ball! THANK YOU ALL!

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

The Diamond Dawgs 2024 season was a great success. We continue to see an increase in membership at the younger Rally Cap 5U and 7U age levels and were able to retain players at the older age group hosting a 2nd 18U team this season. We were very pleased to have adequate coaching staff and players in place for each team prior to the start of the season. The Diamond Dawgs Blue Jays Rally Cap program saw the most significant increase in registration this season with over 100 players at the 5U and 7U age levels. Despite the increase in registration, the program ran smoothly and provided a fun environment for our young players to develop their skills. We are thankful for the dramatic increase in new coaching volunteers at this level which is encouraging for the future. The Diamond Dawgs Challenger program was a huge success in its 3rd season. The program has been very rewarding for all involved and player registration has increased to almost 50 players this season. We have been very fortunate to have the support of many volunteers from within and outside the baseball community. We will continue to raise awareness about the program and try to attract more volunteers to make the program a continued success. Pablo Peraza-Richard was honored with the 2024 Baseball Nova Scotia Challenger Baseball Buddy Award. Prior to the start of the season, the Diamond Dawgs Board formed an independent balancing committee to review and provide recommendations to the Board on our team selection process. This was instrumental in the following improvements:

- more transparent communication to members about our team selection process,
- coaches were identified for each team prior to balancing sessions, and they were actively engaged in the process,
- teams were more equally balanced with less disparity than in several prior seasons.

We'd like to thank our coaches and volunteers for their commitment to creating a great baseball experience for our players this season. We are very impressed with their engagement in the Baseball Nova Scotia NCCP 3 in 1 Coaching clinics and VIP Coaching Program. The Diamond Dawgs Board continues to look for ways to support our player and volunteer development. We are very pleased with the improvements this season and are committed to work hard to improve the baseball experience for our members. Our Woodside Training Facility continues to be a great development resource for both Recreational and Competitive teams and we had an increase in usage again this season. I'd like to thank our Diamond Dawgs Board for their great new ideas and commitment to our Baseball Association.

Overall, Diamond Dawgs coaches, players, and parents were very happy and enjoyed the season as was evident by the end of year DDMBA survey results and comments throughout the season. 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 another season. A very special thanks to DDMBA Board members who are not reoffering, President Mark Raftus for his leadership over the last several years and to Rec Coordinator Kim Pitre for all her efforts to make the Recreation seasons run smoothly the last 2 years.

Diamond Dawgs Board of Directors

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

This year marked a significant milestone as I stepped into the role of president for the first time, alongside a new committee. It was a learning experience for everyone and I'm grateful for the organization's dedication and support throughout the season.

We are proud to report a 20% increase in registration numbers, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for baseball in our community. Although we faced a setback with the cancellation of Opening Day due to rain, the season overall was a great success, thanks to the efforts of our incredible coaches, volunteers, and parents.

On the field, our teams excelled:

- U18 Tier 1: Gold
- U13 Tier 2: Gold
- U11 Tier 1: Silver
- U11 Tier 2: Gold

These accomplishments highlight the hard work and dedication of our players and coaching staff. I look forward to building on this success in the coming year and continuing to grow our association. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to making this season a success.

### **Report: Humber Park (Albert Sarracini and Ashley Helmkey)**

Humber Park continues to be a small association; however we did see an almost 40% increase in registration numbers this summer, which gave us the ability to add a team in a new age group for the 2nd year in a row. We had 35 Rally cap kids split between 5U and 7U, as well as a 9U and 11U team. We continue to have 50% of our registered players be female and this season 10 of our 13 11U players were female. Our 11U team was made entirely of first year 11U players, many of whom were playing their first year of ball. They learned lots and grew all season long - making their way into the semi-finals to end the season on a high note. Overall, we had a fun, successful year.

We hosted another successful year end party at CHP, with a high attendance rate and many players excited about the season and asking when the next opportunities would be to play.

We continue to struggle to recruit board members, but we have some potential interest for next season. We want to thank our small but mighty group of board members and coaches who continue to make each season a success for our players.

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

As the baseball season wraps up, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our coaches and volunteers. Your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment have made this season enjoyable and memorable for everyone involved. We hope you had as much fun as the kids did!

The 2024 season brought significant achievements, challenges, and growth for our teams.

Like last season, we had two large U5 and U7 groups, and we will be reviewing the play schedule for these younger divisions to find the best approach for next year. Our numbers and talent also allowed us to form two U9 teams: a major team and a minor team. While we received a lot of positive feedback, there is still development work to be done in this division, and we will prioritize that moving forward.

Both of our U13 teams finished at the top of the league and secured Gold in the playoffs.

Our U11A team demonstrated immense talent and determination, making it to the semi-finals in the provincials.

Despite facing various challenges, our U11 and U15 teams showed remarkable resilience and growth throughout the year. Their hard work culminated in a well-deserved 2nd place finish in the playoffs for the U15s and a semi-final appearance for the U11s.

As always, there's room for improvement. Just a reminder that our club is entirely volunteer-driven, and we are continually seeking ways to enhance our program and welcome new members.

Thank you,

Lorri Arnold  
Porters Lake President

## **New Business**

Discourse topics from the floor:

- The state of Arrows Jerseys is a concern. There is monies in reserve for Arrows jersey and equipment replacement moving forward. Note we do not have an official preferred supplier, however, there is a slid working relationship in place with Cleves.
- A dry fit option was mentioned that each team would budget for annually and players would keep them at seasons end. This would assist with the logistics and administration of managing inventory.
- The consumption of alcohol by observers at the field was brought up. It has been noted a code of conduct reminder will be distributed before the start of the 2025 season with this item being one of the communication points.
- It was brought up that warmer summers with temperatures at 30 degrees or above seems to be a normal occurrence. DDMBA's stance is to follow public health guidelines. It is noted each family will make the best decision as they see fit regarding their youth dependants being active in warm weather conditions. It was noted DDMBA will source guidelines and best practices around proper hydration and symptoms of heat related issues to be aware of, to be included with coaching information.

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

- Recreation Co-ordinator – open for vote: **No nominations – the position is vacant.**
- Competitive Co-ordinator – **Brian Secord was acclaimed. Motion by Mark R. – second by Jeff R.**

- Secretary – open for vote. No nominations – the position is vacant.
- Associate Registrar/Treasurer – a position is open to work with incumbent Jim Scott for 2025. No interest from the AGM floor – will continue to look for options, perhaps a summer co-op student.
- President – open for vote. No nominations – the position is vacant.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9pm**