

June 23/08 Halifax Metro Basketball Association AGM Minutes

Minutes taken by Linda Cleveland-Thompson

Present: Ed Mc Hugh (Chair), Linda Cleveland-Thompson (Norwood), Jim Gannon (Fairview), Niels Keyser (Fall River), Keith Higgins (Slam), Marcel Maessen (D. Lakers), Rebekah Skeete (Community Y), Todd Mombourquette (MBA League Manager), Yvonne Chaulk (MBA Treasurer), Scott Brown (Eastern Passage), Bill Mac Eachern (MBA Executive), Charlie Scott (Bedford), Jeremy Jackson (Steelers), Peter Luke (Osprey), Vicki Traynor (VEBA), Jim McFadgen (Prospect), John Roy (BNS), Mike Brien (BNS), Peter Halpin (BNS)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Ed McHugh, President. Ed read out the agenda for the evening. Linda Cleveland-Thompson was appointed as recording secretary for the meeting.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to amend last year's minutes to state that the constitution was proposed. Motion by Marcel and seconded by Charlie. Passed.

A motion to approve the amended minutes from last year's AGM was moved by Marcel and seconded by Charlie. Passed.

Business arising from minutes

All has been dealt with during the year. Motion by Charlie and seconded by Marcel- moved that all business arising from the minutes has been dealt with during the year. Passed.

League Manager Report

Already circulated. Todd spoke to the report. He stated that one of the major difficulties has been communication. Too many e-mails arrive without having been funnelled through the club. Many concerns could be dealt with by lower levels. Typically a question from a parent will show up about 150 times when it could be answered at the club level.

Clubs need to communicate clearly to their coaches and parents. The most frequently asked questions are posted on the MBA website under "FAQs". The league would be much more efficient if parents and coaches went to the club before writing to the MBA. It is easier to deal with 29 clubs rather than some 7400 individuals (players, coaches, parents).

League costs- Todd has evaluated the costs of Saturday vs. Sunday games. It used to be thought that Sunday was more expensive in terms of running a game. But that is not borne out by facts. We had been charging a differential fee for higher levels. But it is recommended that we charge a single fee for all teams.

Gym costs are increasing. Saturday gym time at HRSB schools is expensive and we try to utilize as many Scotia Learning Centre schools as possible. We are also running into difficulties as the number of teams increase in terms of getting sufficient referees to supply the games on Saturdays.

Recommended by the executive- that the bantam boys division moves to Sunday (the second largest division in the league). We will try to work around church times. Parents have been accustomed to this division playing on Saturdays.

Ed McHugh recommended a one year trial and then re-evaluation. No junior high ball and no NSSAF games are played on Sundays.

Discussion followed.

Marcel complimented Todd for eliminating the individual scores from the newspapers despite pressure from parents. It promotes "team play" rather than individuals looking for their names in the paper. He considered it a bold step and hoped that the league will continue to do the same.

Todd stated that the difficulty was that the paper could no longer accommodate the numbers. And as an added benefit, it has decreased the number of e-mails - from parents and players complaining about errors in the recording of scores.

Acceptance of Todd's report moved by Vicki; seconded by Bill. Passed.

Bill - point of information- had tallied the numbers present - 54 of approx. 91 votes present and read out the number of votes held by the clubs present.

Treasurer's Report

Circulated. Yvonne spoke to the report.

Fall River noted that the gym rental costs are significant and suggested that should give us leverage with HRM.

Todd spoke to that issue. He says that our leverage does help reduce costs. But that with increased fuel costs and increased custodial salaries along with our requests for early snow removal, we are likely already subsidized in terms of our gym times. The rates have not changed much in 5 years.

Mike Brien noted that BNS is in dialogue with the government to try to stabilize gym costs.

Expectations in terms of increases in October 2008 (once season has already started)- referee costs including their travel expenses; some questions about why we pay individual referees rather than paying the association (MABO).

Questions in terms of number of employees- scorekeepers included in this number.
Motion to approve Treasurer's Report- moved by Bill; Seconded by Marcel. Passed.

Fees for next year

Recommended- a flat fee for all teams. This year we charged \$1325 for lower division teams and \$1375 for midget and juvenile teams.

Motion that the recommended \$1400 fee for all teams next year which would include the BNS fee of \$175 be accepted. Moved by Yvonne. Seconded by Charlie.

Some questions in terms of payments for scorekeepers. Fee will not increase next season.

Ed McHugh stated that there was a request from BNS that we levy \$6 per player fee for Basketball Canada. Historically we collect BNS fee for them through our MBA registration fee.

Bill pointed out that this request was not presented in writing in advance to the meeting and that the matter should not be discussed. Ed suggested that this topic was too important to not be discussed at this time.

Mike Brien spoke to the issue. He stated that BNS held a special meeting last year about supporting Canada Basketball with a \$9 fee per player. Subsequently BNS attended a Canada Basketball meeting and felt that they could not deliver what they were promising for that fee. IF Canada Basketball makes it through the summer, BNS intends to support them for the next season. Canada Basketball gives us the Steve Nash program and the coaching certification program. Mike stated that he has the financial statement and budget for Canada Basketball. The MBA has requested them but has not received them from BNS or Basketball Canada.

Discussion followed including statements that clearly something is not right when we cannot obtain financial statements.

In response to questions, Mike Brien stated that the debt is \$1.2 million and that the new leadership will help address this. If they meet short term benchmarks (mostly financial), BNS will support them. There were questions about why we should not wait until provincials in the spring of 2009 before we decide whether to collect this fee.

Comments about how the Steve Nash program was developed by Basketball BC and even without Canada Basketball, the provinces could likely take over and run the program.

Todd noted that this would increase fees to \$1460 per team which is a hefty increase for some clubs.

Eastern Passage agreed that this would be a problem for his smaller club. Fall River spoke in support of the Steve Nash program and supporting Canada Basketball.
The total fee increase will amount to \$135 per team for the lower division teams.

Discussion followed.

Motion amended- that we include \$60 fee per team and our fees for 2008-09 will be \$1460 per team. Moved by Marcel. seconded by Jim McFadgen. (with agreement of those who moved the original motion). Motion passed 43-9.

Constitution

Motion- that we accept new MBA Constitution as presented. Motion- Marcel. Seconded- Charlie.

Ed McHugh thanked Marcel and Bill for their work behind the scenes. The constitution will be a working document with a mechanism to change it.

Bill stated that since it was sent out there have been some suggested minor revisions to the Constitution in order to correct typos.

Minor revisions in Article 3.2 and Article 6.61 to correct typos.

Article 7- Article changed to: "Subject to these Articles and By-laws, all meetings of the MBA shall be conducted in accordance with "Call to Order: Meeting Rules, Procedures and Advice for Non-Profit Organizations", Second Edition, by Herb Perry and Susan Perry, Big Bay Publishing, Owen Sounds, Ontario."

Minor revisions to articles 10.3 and By-law 4.2 to correct typos.

Bylaw 7 reworded to: 'Should a team not provide the Division Coordinator or League Manager with proper notice and not appear for a scheduled game such that the game is a forfeit, that team will be responsible for the full costs relating to that game, such as gym, referee and scorekeeper.'

Minor revisions to By-law 8.3 and Rule 9.6 to correct typos.

Amendment to motion to allow these changes. Motion- Bill. Seconded - Marcel (with permission of those who passed and seconded the original motion)

The document is meant to be a "living document" and change over time.

Motion to add past president as a member of the Executive . The officers of the MBA shall be.... "and past president". Motion- Bill. Seconded- Marcel.

Motions revising the constitution- passed
Motion- accepting the constitution- passed.

Bill MacEachern noted that we will have to register with the Registry of Joint Stocks and will

need a Memorandum of Association. Marcel noted that this should be done after the new executive is elected.

Award Banners

Todd spoke to this issue. Banners have been awarded to teams which jump up a level. Teams which have their own gym like it. Other teams are not as interested (nowhere to display it). Discussion as to when to award them. No motion to extend them beyond those teams which play up a level.

Information item only- trophies given out to junior mini and mini; medals & t-shirts to bantams, midgets and juveniles.

Sunday play- bantam boys

Motion- one year trial to move bantam boys division to Sundays for next season. Motion- Vicki. Seconded- Yvonne. Passed.

Rules Committee

Information item- Discussion about the difficulties in terms of switching rules for provincials. Offer from BNS to form a committee and originally three person committee- BNS, officials and MBA. Committee would consist of Donnie Ehler (BNS); Todd Mombourquette (MBA) and Roger Caulfield (officials). BNS then wanted to add provincial representation. Difficulty is that MBA has financial constraints in terms of running league which may not be an issue in other communities Canada Basketball is working on rules and there should be a set of rules available for the 2009-10 season.

BNS- no longer willing to go forward with a three person committee. Want a 6 person binding committee- 2 to represent other parts of the province and someone with long term athletic development expertise.

Todd noted that there are very few differences. But one of them- junior mini 4 on 4 - could involve increased costs

Discussion over the difficulty that MBA represents 75 percent of the basketball community and difficulties if the MBA is outvoted on a committee and ends up with rules which it cannot afford to implement.

Questions about the history of when the changes happened. Ball size for bantams was changed so that players did not have to change ball sizes when playing junior high and club ball.

Discussion over whether the committee could operate by consensus and what consensus would mean.

FIBA rules are now in place but we are already modifying them to reduce costs (i.e. time for

warm-up). Canada Basketball recommends “pure FIBA.” Questions as to whether we could adopt them. Costs would increase.

Various proposals in terms of number on committee and how to operate committee.

Motion- recommend that BNS sets up a 7 person committee and request that the committee operate by consensus. Membership of the committee :

- 1 member- BNS
- 1 members- officials
- 2 members- MBA
- 1 member- long term athletic development
- 2 members- provincial representation

Motion- Jim; seconded- Charlie.

Amendment to add “Decision of the committee will be binding. Motion- Jim; Seconded- Charlie
Passed with 11 votes against the motion.

Executive Election

1 year terms

Nominations

Treasurer- Yvonne Chaulk

Secretary- Bill MacEachern

Vice President- Niels Keyser

President- Linda Cleveland-Thompson

(Past president- will be Ed McHugh)

No other nominations. All elected by acclamation.

Motions of thanks to Vicki Traynor for her years on the Executive; Ed McHugh for his presidency; Marcel Maessen and Bill MacEachern for their work on the constitution; Todd Mombourquette for carrying the league for several years on his back and keeping it going.

Other members of the Executive-

Keith Higgins - re-offering

Rebecca Skete- Community Y- new member

Ability to add by the Executive.

Motion to adjourn.