

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)
Special Member's Meeting & Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: June 11th 2024 at 7:00pm

Location: Walter Baker Cafeteria

1.0 Call to Order Special member's Meeting [6:49 pm]: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

2.0 Opening remarks: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

We will be spending the first 15 minutes here on a special member's meeting to vote on changes we are proposing to the board's structure and corresponding changes to the Constitution. These proposed changes were sent to all members, so I hope everyone has had a chance to review, but I will go through them quickly here before we vote.

3.0 Proposed Changes to Board Structure and Constitution: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

First, we are proposing to change the title of Treasurer to VP Finance, and give the holder of this position some additional responsibilities but also to reduce some of the churn of this position by giving them the authority to hire a bookkeeper. We have learned that this position is far too onerous for one person – writing checks for all payments we need to make, in addition to working with the auditors, drafting our budget and financial strategic planning and analysis is a huge job. These changes will give the proposed VP Finance leadership over the more strategic financial pieces of the association while reducing their day-to-day work. The VP will also be responsible for looking at financial policies and proposing changes or updates that make sense for us.

The second change is to add an Administration Director to the board. This person will work with the registrar and secretary on the administrative and communication-related functions of the Board. We want to be able to push more and better information out to members through various channels but need to increase our capacity in order to be able to do so. This person will also be responsible for sponsorships – we are always looking at sponsorship opportunities to help our members, but the reality is that we need someone to manage this work. In order to make these changes official, we need a majority vote from the group here in attendance, and we need to make corresponding changes to the NGHA Constitution to be able to make this new structure official. I'll be asking for a show of hands to vote on the three pieces.

1. Show of hands was requested to vote on the changes to make the Treasurer position Vice-President of Finance. **Approved by member majority vote**
2. Show of hands was requested to vote on the changes to add the Position of Administration Director. **Approved by member majority vote**

3. Show of hands was requested to vote on the associated changes to the Constitution.
Approved by member majority vote

4.0 Adjournment [6:52 pm]: Motion to adjourn special member's meeting moved by Claire Bellefeuille; seconded by Lisa Camilucci.

1.0 Call to Order Annual General Meeting [6:52 pm]: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

2.0 Adoption of 2023 AGM Minutes: President requested a motion and secondment for the adoption of the 2023 AGM minutes. Moved by Rob Mahoney; seconded by Lisa Camilucci.

3.0 President's Message: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

Thanks everyone for coming tonight. I know it's a busy time of year with other spring sports, so I appreciate you taking the time to join us.

I am pleased to report that our registration numbers continue to rise following the dip we experienced during and immediately after the pandemic. We had well over 800 players this season and this resurgence is a testament to our community's dedication to providing opportunities for girls to engage in hockey, fostering both their athletic skills and personal growth.

This past season has been exceptionally successful. We proudly supported 50 teams across both our house league and competitive programs. This achievement is a reflection of the hard work and passion of our players, coaches, and families. It's heartening to see the growth and enthusiasm within our ranks, and I am confident that we will continue to build on this momentum.

As we look to the future, we are committed to continuously improving our association. We are always seeking ways to enhance the experience for our players, making our programs more inclusive, efficient, and enjoyable. However, the success of these initiatives relies heavily on the involvement of our community members. We are a volunteer-run organization, and our progress depends on the generous contributions of time and effort from our volunteers. I urge each of you to consider how you might be able to contribute, whether it's coaching, assisting with events, or supporting our administrative tasks. Every bit of help makes a significant difference. Speaking of volunteers, I'd like to thank every single person who stepped up to volunteer for our players this season, with a special mention to:

- **Certifications Coordinator:** Lisa Tizzard (also our Board Secretary)
- **Bingo Coordinator:** Tracey Cantwell
- **Finance Admin:** Chantal Weatherdon
- **Ice Scheduler:** Jamie Leppard
- **DNC expert:** David Hunter

- **House League Convenors:** Susan Amadio, Diane Chea, Lynne Morreau, Shannon Quinlan-Steele and Jessica Caldbick
- **Competitive Convenors:** Glenn Burrows, Laura Reid, and Lindsay Whitmore
- **Communications:** Estelle Mendonca
- **Head Timekeeper:** Sherry Jones - this is Sherry's last year as Head Timekeeper and we want to thank her for the years she has put into this position. We wish you a relaxing retirement, Sherry!
- **Social Media:** Kellie Stewart and Maggie Brennan
- **Equipment:** Pierre St. Pierre
- **FUNDamentals Head Coaches:** MacKenzie and Sierra Erbach
- **NGHA Tournament Director:** Melanie Byrnes

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to our on-ice helpers, Managers, Trainers and Den Moms.

Finally, I want to thank our coaches. You put so much time, care and attention into your teams. Hours spent developing practice plans and attending games, coming up with ideas to bring your players together and become the best athletes they can be. Giving up your evenings and weekends to help your players participate in the sport they love. It may feel like a thankless job sometimes, but I want to assure you that we see you and appreciate all that you do.

Before I wrap up, I want to take a minute to address a more somber issue. This season, we have observed a disappointing trend of entitlement and disrespectful behavior from some members of our community. It is essential to remember that we are all part of a volunteer-run organization. Everyone you see here, along with all the people I just recognized, are dedicating their time and energy out of a love for the game and a desire to see our players succeed. I cannot stress enough the need to foster a respectful and supportive environment. The amount of hard work that goes into making our programs run smoothly is absolutely staggering – but we do this work because without it, the NGHA would not exist.

We do it because we believe in the importance of providing the girls in our community with an association to call their own where they can play the sport they love. Because supporting girls and women in sports isn't just about fairness; it is about recognizing and nurturing the incredible potential that lies within each athlete. It's about reshaping perceptions and redefining what is possible for young girls and women in sports. Because despite all the not so great and downright hard parts of running an association like this, we can still see the good.

So please, if you leave here with two takeaways let them be that we need volunteers and depend on them for our success, and to be kind – to your coaches, your teammates, your fellow parents and to the people who are giving their time so our girls can play. With that, I'll turn things over to Ray for our financial report.

4.0 Finance Update: Treasurer [Ray Murphy]

From a financial perspective the NGHHA is in good shape and ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$50,000. We are moving into the next fiscal year with approximately 200k in cumulative surplus.

As an association we average approximately 1 million in and 1 million out per season. However less money was paid out this year due to Referee and Timekeeper issues as well as less ice due to a shutdown of Nepean Sportsplex 1.

Tournaments generated significant funds for the association.

We have enough bursary funds to extend approximately 6 years.

The NGHHA Bingo account ended the year with approximately the same balance as the start of the year.

A motion was passed earlier this year to allocate funds to hire an independent reviewer of the 2022-2024 financial statements. Armstrong Jones officially has been named for this purpose.

5.0 Operations Update: VP Operations [Kim Leclair]

Timekeepers / Refs - We struggled the first half of the season with timekeepers and refs with things getting better after Christmas.

Sherry Jones, our Head Timekeeper, completed her final year. Big thanks to her and all the work she's done over the years. Drew MacLean will be taking over this season with Sherry providing some help where needed.

To improve the referee situation, we will be looking to have more league games during the week and not book league games on weekends when we know there are tournaments in town, like Gloucester and Kanata. We are hoping this will help.

Ice Scheduling - We had a few minor issues with ice but overall, it was a successful season.

Nepean Sportsplex - Yzerman was out of service for 5 weeks in the fall which was difficult for some of the U18 and U22 teams so thanks to everyone for working together to make things work.

We continued to decrease from private ice and acquire more city ice with the goal of saving money. We will attempt to continue to do this next season.

We have asked the city for more weekday ice between 5pm and 9pm and remain hopefully we will receive additional ice. Over 85% of ice we get from the city is on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Private ice purchased dropped from \$195K to \$138K over the past two seasons. Most of the private ice was at Carleton university

City ice purchased this season for over 50 teams was approximately \$650K with most of that ice being used by competitive teams. Burnt ice was down from last year and was approximately 30 hours.

NGHA DIFD Tournament - Our tournaments were very successful this season with 92 house league teams and 132 competitive teams over the course of two weekends. Big thanks to Mel Byrnes for being our Tournament Director and taking on this role. These tournaments need a lot of volunteer hours, and we really appreciate the time Mel has taken to run them. They also would not happen without the many volunteers from the association. We thank all our teams and volunteers for making this such a successful event. Mel just finished her second year as Tournament Director and this role will now be taken over by Katie Bertrand who has already started planning.

This past season the NGHA donated \$8000 to DIFD.

6.0 House League Update: House League Directors [Lisa Camilucci and Tracey Foster]

This year, we saw some growth in our HL registration numbers and increased our number of house league teams from 25 to 27 across all levels. We are also seeing an increasing interest in our FUNdamentals program. We are slowly making progress towards seeing a return to pre-pandemic numbers, where we had 8 HL teams at most levels.

Our house league teams performed very well at tournaments this year - our Wildcats brought back two gold medals and eight silver medals, with many of our teams advancing to semi-final and final rounds in the tournaments they participated in.

We capped off our season with a successful Championship Weekend. 51 games in total were played across all divisions.

We continued our partnership with Kanata's house league program that included regular season game play between both associations at every level, capped off with an exciting grand final championship from U11 to U18, with two of our teams coming out on top in the final games of the season. We plan to continue with this program into next season.

Thank you to all our dedicated coaches, managers and volunteers, and a special thank you goes out to our fabulous team of house league convenors - Jessica Caldbick, Shannon Quinlan-Steele, Susan Amadio, Lynne Morreau and Diane Chea.

7.0 Competitive Update: Competitive Directors [Eric Pickering and Rob Mahoney]

It was another busy season as we were right back at it with a full complement of 22 teams across our 6 age groups.

For the first time we ran U11 Competitive tryouts in the Spring. Please rest assured that we consulted across the city with the other girls' minor hockey associations as well as confirming with OWSHA that this is permitted.

Also, for the first time we held individual coach evaluation sessions to relay feedback that you provided and to discuss how the season was going. Admittedly, it was a little too late in the year and is something we will improve upon next season.

We had a strong competitive season, where many of our teams finished in the top 3 of their leagues, won or finished as finalists in multiple tournaments. 18 tournament titles (including 4 DIFD Gold and 4 silver at DIFD)

- City Champions: 4 Champions (U13AMB, U18A, U18BBB, U18C) 2 Consolation Champions (U18B, U18BBD)
- City Finalists: 3 (U13AA, U13ACC, U13B)
- Provincials: 13 teams attended (1 Silver, 1 Bronze)

Going forward we will be proudly displaying a mix of OWHA, OWHL, DIFD and House League banners at Minto. Coaches are free to keep all other banners

Referees 2023-24 Season - A number of games were canceled due to lack of officials. We are working on creating a pool of officials that will be on “standby”. We hope that by doing a better job scheduling league games when large tournaments are in city it will improve our relationship with ODWHRA.

Season Planning - Set game nights on weekends created conflicts with local tournaments and referee shortages. Next season, we will schedule more games during the week.

Teams need to schedule games as soon as league play is open (more games in October) in order to give more time for the end of season. Final league games, Playdowns, Playoffs all end up being crammed together. Our goal is to have teams finish League games prior to playdowns and playoffs

8.0 Other business of interest and concern to the members: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

We did not receive any motions or business from members. I'll turn things back to Lisa for the presentation of the both the Mary Lou Zywicki and Les Banks bursary recipients. I'd just like to note that I was so impressed with the players who applied for these bursaries – you are all truly inspiring and I can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

9.0 Presentation of Bursaries: House League Directors [Lisa Camilucci and Tracey Foster]

Mary Lou Zywicki Bursary:

This bursary award is in honor of Mary Lou Zywicki, who dedicated many years of service to girls' hockey at both the team and executive levels. She was instrumental in developing the original NGHA website.

This bursary recognizes players who are advancing to a college or university to pursue their academics. These players exemplify sportsmanship and fair play, personal contribution to their teams and the NGHA and show ambition and direction in achieving their life goals.

Applicants were required to provide personal letters that outline these qualities, which were evaluated by a selection committee. Applicants were also required to submit their grades, number of volunteer hours, and two letters of recommendation from past and current coaches.

Special thank you to our selection committee members:

Lesley Salvatore, Susan Amadio, Nicholas Sunderland, Lina Campbell and Aaron Paice

Our recipients this year:

- Ella Beasant
- Emma Gardner

Les Banks Bursary:

This bursary award is in honor of Les Banks, who dedicated many years of service to the NGHHA at both the team and executive levels. Les served on the NGHHA executive in various positions for over a decade and was always ready to help out in any way he could. Les has also been recognized in the community for his extensive volunteering efforts.

This bursary recognizes a graduating player who is advancing to college or university to pursue their academics. Applicants were required to provide personal letters that describe why they believe they are deserving of the bursary by outlining how they give back to their community, and what volunteering means to them.

The successful applicant best exemplifies outstanding volunteerism, community participation and leadership.

The recipient of the 2024 Les Banks Bursary is:

- Arabella Kelso

10.0 Election of Officers and Directors: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

We will have two votes taking place this evening, but I will first announce the positions that have been acclaimed, as follows:

- **President:** Claire Bellefeuille
- **Vice-President of Programs:** Eric Pickering
- **Vice President of Operations:** Kim LeClair
- **Competitive Director 1:** Rob Mahoney
- **Competitive Director 2:** Rob Sample
- **House League Director 1:** Lisa Camilucci
- **Vice President Finance:** Shawn Roussy
- **Policy, Risk and Player Safety Director:** Lindsay Whitmore
- **Registrar:** Lisa Tizzard

We will now turn to our candidates for the position of Board Secretary. I'll ask each of you to come to the front and share a bit about yourself and why you are interested in this position and then we will do the same for the candidates for Administration Director.

Candidates for Secretary were given an opportunity to address the membership:

- **Glenn Burrows**
- **Rekha Chagarlamudi**

Candidates for Administration Director were given an opportunity to address the membership:

- **Estelle Mendonca**
- **Kellie Stewart**

We will now vote on these positions.

Successful candidates were announced as follows:

Secretary: Glenn Burrows

Administration Director: Estelle Mendonca

Welcome to our new Board members! I look forward to having you join our team, and congratulations to everyone taking on new roles for the upcoming season.

We have several Board members who are leaving the executive this year. Ray Murphy, who has been trying to leave for a long time now: thank you so much Ray for the work you have done to organize our finances and get things prepared for our new VP Finance, I appreciate you staying on for as long as you have. Rachel, the work you have done over the last two years as Registrar has been instrumental in allowing us to even have hockey teams – I know it has been a ton of work, so thank you for everything! Kevin and Justin, thank you for the work you've done on the Board over the last two seasons. Being on the Board is no easy task and I appreciate all the time you have put in.

I'd like to thank everyone on the Board for their work this past season. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you, and I look forward to the progress we will make together in the 2024-25 season.

9.0 Adjournment [7:37pm] – Motion to adjourn the 2023 AGM moved by Rachel Ellison; seconded by Ray Murphy

Approximate duration: 48 minutes