

Marty White Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: June 15th 2021 at 7:00pm

Location: Videoconference – via Zoom

1.0 Call to Order: President [Tracey Gillies]

- 7:05 pm

2.0 Adoption of 2021 AGM Minutes: Approved by Stephen Bent; Seconded by Wendy Baldin. Members voted in support.

3.0 Opening remarks [President of NGHA and guest Fran Rider (President of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association)]

The president of the OWHA was welcomed to the NGHA's AGM. The president of the OWHA thanked the NGHA for extending the invitation to the AGM. The date March 13, 2020 was reflected to be a changing day for hockey due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On that day, the OWHA president acknowledged that there were NGHA teams scheduled for practices, games and tournament that were abruptly cancelled. It was acknowledged that there was no playbook to navigate what the changes would mean for hockey and that it required a tremendous amount of effort and collaboration to work through the return to hockey in the fall of 2020, as well as adaptability throughout the entire season. As the OWHA president reflected on the unprecedented year of hockey in Ontario, she extended thanks and appreciation to the NGHA's president and Board of Directors who were commended for demonstrating strength and dedication in running the hockey programs during the difficult year. It was acknowledged that the OWHA felt strong support from the NGHA throughout the year and that this relationship benefited many smaller associations within Ontario.

Thoughts for the upcoming season were offered with some optimism presented considering progress made with health measures taken by public health officials to control the pandemic. The present situation was reported to be in Step 1/3 of the Return to Hockey phases with a minimum of 21 days in between the phases. The movement closer to a normal level of hockey will be dictated by public health officials with acknowledgement that it is a fluid situation. Key aspects related to what hockey may look like when it returns, include cohorts and modified game play and it was reported that the OWHA will be prepared to work within the restrictions to allow for some league play, local tournaments and provincials (if permitted).

Congratulations to the outgoing Board Members were presented by the OWHA president. The OWHA welcomed and extended their support to the new NGHA Board of Directors. Final appreciation for being part of the NGHA's AGM was given and a reminder to Members that all associations under the OWHA are part of one big team and that the OWHA is here to support everyone.

4.0 President's Message [President]

Appreciation was expressed toward all of the many NGHA volunteers who dedicated their time to ensuring the success of the NGHA throughout the 2020-21 season, especially in light of the very difficult circumstances under the Covid-19 pandemic. Special mention was offered to the following NGHA volunteers:

Certification: **Machelle Giovagnoli**

Bingo Coordinator: **Machelle Giovagnoli**

Finance Admin: **Karine Tremblay**

House League Convenors: **Jennifer Esdaile, Jennifer Steeves, Lisa Brennan, Tracy Foster**

Competitive Convenors: **Jamie Leppard, Dave Nordquist, Ryan Sciampaceone, Heather Baxter**

Webmaster: **David Hunter**

Communications: **Claire Bellefeuille**

Social Media: **Dave Davies**

Equipment: **Pierre St. Pierre**

FUNDamentals Head Coach: **Madison Erbach**

COVID-19 Committee: **Tarra Findlay, Sandra Howell, Judith Snedden, Machelte Giovagnoli**

Coaches and on-ice helpers

Managers

Safety Officers

Trainers

Den Moms

Parents

5.0 Reports from Directors and Committees

President [Tracey Gillies]

Appreciation was extended to the OWHa President, who provided an update for the upcoming season. It was reported that while it is not clear what the season will look like given it will depend on public health directives, planning is starting early. Several contingency plans will be put into place to ensure preparedness so our players can get back on the ice safely, as soon as permitted. These plans will also allow for adaptability appreciating that the public health measures and directives will be fluid. While there is no playbook to work from, the NGHHA has experience from last year which will greatly facilitate this planning and we will be prepared to pivot quickly as required.

It is expected that there will be some level of league play permitted next season, but it is expected to be local only with less travel (nothing outside ON). While tournaments are not being sanctioned by the OWHa at this time, when they are sanctioned, they may be localized. We anticipate that there may be tournaments permitted after Christmas. All direction will be coming from the OWHa, as directed by Public Health. The NGHHA will plan for tryouts/sort-outs and will keep membership informed once we receive further details.

Members were asked to seek out the NGHHA social media platforms and website as information will be continuously updated through these means and they will be the NGHHA's regular source of communication rather than emails.

House League Director [Lisa Camilucci]

An update on the 2020-21 house league season was provided acknowledging that there were 20 house league teams from U9 to U18 this past season. A reflection on the year was given with the season beginning with practices only and bubbling of teams permitted in the second half of the season. It was acknowledged that teams had to pivot several times throughout the season to adapt to changing provincial orders. A huge thanks was offered to all coaches and team staff. Thanks were also extended to the house league convenors (Tracy Foster, Lisa Brennan, Jennifer Steeves, Jennifer Esdaile) who helped tremendously throughout the season.

Competitive [Chad Chambers]

An update was provided that there were 26 competitive teams plus our junior U22 team during the 2020-21 season. The NGHHA's Tier 1 teams bubbled most of the year with another association. It was also reported that some of our competitive teams were able to bubble with another association while the rest of the teams set up games internally. A thank-you was extended to all coaches and team staff for their patience and dedication throughout the season. Additional thanks was given to our comp convenors (Jamie Leppard, Ryan Sciampacone, Heather Baxter, Dave Nordquist). It was acknowledged that there was a tremendous amount of work that went into the year and there was appreciation expressed for the hard work to make the best of the season and keep the players on the ice. While there were tough measures in place, it was recognized that the protocols kept our players on the ice for as long as we could so that was greatly appreciated.

Registrar [Gerard Gagnon]

A high level overview of registration was presented for the 2020-21 season. The unprecedented year brought lots of changed to the registration process and the Members were thanked for their patience throughout the season. There were two new systems from the OWHa that were introduced, including a new player registration system and new

electronic game sheets, which made for extra challenges throughout the season. Overall, approximately 82% of players from the previous season returned to play hockey this past year, despite the restrictions under the Covid-19 pandemic. There were 46 teams in total.

It was reported that registration will open in the coming week.

Policy, Risk and Safety Director [Stephen Bent]

An overview on the year from a safety perspective was provided. It was reported that the NGHA's Board of Directors approached the year from the standpoint of being united in the principle of ensuring health and safety of the players and volunteers as the utmost priority.

A reflection on the last season was provided with the acknowledgment of the enormous amount of work involved in aligning with the different governing bodies (Provincial government, locally [Ottawa Public Health], and Hockey Canada) which were not always providing the same directions, as well as the high degree of adapting required throughout the season. The NGHA felt well supported by the OWSA in terms of trying to manage the limitation and restrictions.

A huge thank-you was offered to the players, parents and coaches/ team staff for understanding, working to implement all of the protocols and for your flexibility.

A Covid-19 Advisory Committee was formed before the season started to navigate through all of the protocols that were required to keep everyone safe. The NGHA was very fortunate to have experienced volunteers on the committee who came from various health backgrounds. The committee worked to plan and guide the NGHA throughout the season with respect to the implementation and adaptations of the Covid-19 protocols. It was reported that there were 10-15 Covid-related issues that required handling throughout the season with cases/ school outbreaks, and other challenges for which the committee provided guidance.

There were no policy or discipline-related issues to report on given the focus of the season was on safety under the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.0 Finance [Tony Matson]

From a financial perspective, the NGHA is in good shape despite the unusual year. The association ended with a surplus of approximately \$20, 000. The revenues were about 40% of what they typically are and the expenses were also about 40% of what they are in a typical year, which reflected the different type of year this was under the pandemic. Going into next fiscal year, the NGHA has about \$98, 000 as a cumulative surplus. The budget for next season will be based off of that used in the 2019/20 season with any adjustments necessary made throughout the season. Reassurance was offered that the NGHA is in a good place financially.

The MOTION 'approval of the continued use of WGP Accounting firm as the auditors' was Moved by Tony Matson; Seconded by Lisa Camilucci. Members voted in support.

7.0 Bursary Awards [Karen Major]

The Mary Lou Zywicki award was presented in honour of a NGHA volunteer who dedicated many years of service to girls' hockey at both the team and executive levels. Mary Lou served on the NGHA executive in various positions for many years and was instrumental in developing the original NGHA website.

This year, the NGHA was reported to have received a record number of applications for the bursary. A thank-you was extended to the selection committee who dedicated their time to reviewing the applicants' personal letters. Each application demonstrated how much girls hockey and the NGHA has meant in the lives of the players graduating this year. These letters demonstrated that hockey means so much more than the wins and losses as it was apparent that hockey teaches so many life lessons, provides deep-rooted friendships, imparts resilience and determination and above all gratitude for all of the work that coaches, parents and volunteers put in behind the scenes.

The recipients of the Mary Lou Zywicki bursaries awards for 2021 were presented as follows:

- Natasha Baldin
- Jamie Burnett
- Hillary Sterling
- Danielle Vandesande
- Clair Forbes
- Corinne Decelles
- Emma Moorcroft

8.0 Election of Officers and Directors: [President]

The new Board of Directors' Members for the NGHHA were announced, with the following Members acclaimed to the positions up for election:

Vice President of Operations: **Chad Chambers**

Competitive Director: **Jamie Leppard**

House League Director: **Tracy Foster**

Secretary: **Claire Bellefeuille**

Treasurer: **Raymond Murphy**

Appreciation and thanks were extended to the Board of Directors Members who are leaving, as follows: Karen Major, Wendy Baldin, Mike Speer, Tony Matson, and Les Banks.

An announced was made of a new bursary in honour of Les Banks. The details and description of this bursary will be worked out in the next year but it will honour a wonderful volunteer. The following description of Les Banks was offered by the President, Tracey Gillies:

Les has been around so long that no one really knows how long he was a board member! Les is the one who got me involved and eventually brought me on as a board member 7 or 8 years ago. Les isn't afraid of work. It never mattered what Les's role on the board was or where the help was needed, he was always ready to roll up his sleeves and get the job done. Whether it was organizing and hauling pinnies for sortouts, carrying hundreds of jerseys to and from the Bell Storage Locker, organizing sortout and competitive schedules, filling in for a referee no-show, or picking up food for volunteers who were camped out at Minto during sortouts or championship weekend, he did anything and everything for this association. In addition to the NGHHA, Les was also recognized by the Ottawa School Board as a recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2018. Les is everywhere and knows everyone. He takes calls from anyone wanting information or needing to chat and at arenas the kids flock to him because they love him. He has been a committed parent, volunteer and board member for the NGHHA for a really long time.

For this reason, I am so proud to announce the creation of the Les Banks Bursary to honour his legacy of volunteering. This bursary will be presented to a graduating NGHHA player who best exemplifies outstanding volunteerism.

9.0 Adjournment (7:44 pm) – Motion to adjourn the 2021 AGM moved by Tracey Gillies; seconded by Wendy Baldin.

Approximate duration: 44 minutes