

## Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: June 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7:00pm

Location: Nepean Sportsplex

### 1.0 Call to Order: President [Claire Bellefeuille]

- 7:04 pm

### 2.0 Adoption of 2023 AGM Minutes: Approved by Lisa Camilucci; Seconded by Kim Leclair; Members voted in support.

### 3.0 Opening remarks [Claire Bellefeuille]

- We have quorum, so I will call this meeting to order.
- I'll note that we have a couple of Board members missing this evening due to exceptional circumstances, including the death of a parent, so while they are not with us tonight, we will keep them in our thoughts.

### 4.0 President's Message [President]

- 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.
- If I had to pick a theme for this past season, I'd say it was "*new beginnings*".
- It was our first season that felt truly "normal" coming out of Covid. There were no lock-down periods, we were free to attend tournaments out of province, most of the covid-related protocols that had been in place were removed, and it generally felt like things were back on track.
- It was our first year fully integrating into the RAMP system, which was mandated by the OWHA. This came with a few road bumps, but we are settling in and are in good shape for next season.
- It was also our first year with a number of brand-new Board members, or people taking on completely new roles.
- New beginnings always bring a bit of a learning curve, and I'd say this was certainly true for us. A lot of time was spent this year listening and learning.
- Building relationships with other girl's hockey associations in our city and with the NMHA.
- Learning to work *with* our governing body – the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and learning where we need to advocate for change.
- Looking at how things have always been done, so we can make informed decisions about how things can be done in the future. Looking at where changes are possible and make sense, based on the resources we have. How we can become more efficient, provide more value for our members.
- We made some headway this season and were able to advance a number of initiatives.
- Using money from the BINGO program, we were able to offer \$1000 in funding to every woman non-parent assistant coach. Having women on the bench is not only a priority of the association, but also so important for the players to be surrounded by strong female role models. As we all know, volunteering on a hockey team can come with a financial burden, particularly when it comes to attending tournaments. This funding helped to cover these costs and will hopefully encourage more young women to return or come on board in future seasons.
- We piloted the successful Nepean-Kanata House League Program, which our House League Directors will be talking about shortly.
- We worked with the NMHA to provide our U22 team with access to the Steve Yzerman rink at the Nepean Sportsplex for games. Despite being the highest level of hockey girls can play in the province, last season our team was relegated to the figure skating rink at the Sportsplex due to City allocations. This year, thanks to the NMHA,

and their recognition of the importance of promoting girls hockey and the need to provide our girls with resources they need to compete successfully at the highest level, we were able to obtain the Yzerman rink for their games.

- We piloted our NGHA skills development initiative, where we used ice that would normally be burnt – for various reasons – to provide low-cost skills development sessions to players. While we were only able to provide a couple of sessions this season, we are hoping to make this a more regular program next season, available to players at all ages and levels.
- We made the CoachThem software available to every coach, allowing them to easily create custom drills and practice plans and level up their practices.
- This year also saw the return of the 41st Annual NGHA "Paint it Purple for DIFD" Competitive and House league tournaments. With the biggest thanks to our Tournament Directors, Melanie Byrnes and Jennifer Wetmore, these tournaments were a major success with 196 teams participating. This was a massive undertaking and Mel and Jen did a fantastic job coordinating everything from the run of show for both tournament weekends, to new medals to obtaining our title sponsors Biosteel and Scotiabank. I can't even run through a list of everything they did or we'd be here all night!
- 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 and Bingo Coordinator: Mabelle Giovagnoli
  - Finance Admin: Chantal Weatherdon
  - Ice Scheduler: Jamie Leppard
  - DNC master: David Hunter
  - House League Convenors: Susan Amadio, Diane Chea, Tracy Foster, Lynne Morreau, and Amy Wellings
  - Competitive Convenors: Marty Levesque, Laura Reid, Ryan Sciampacone, Lindsay Whitmore
  - Communications: Estelle Mendonca
  - Head Timekeeper: Sherry Jones
  - Social Media: Dave Davies
  - Equipment: Pierre St. Pierre
  - FUNDamentals Head Coaches: MacKenzie and Sierra Erbach
- 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.
- This association runs on volunteers – we wouldn't exist without people who are willing to spend their sacred free time making things happen. So I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed their time to the NGHA. Thank you.

## **5.0 Reports from Directors and Committees**

### House League Director [Lisa Camilucci, Tracey Foster]

- This year, we had 25 house teams from U9 to U18
- We launched a very successful pilot 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 and a mini-game fun day for our U9 teams. Feedback from parents and coaches in both associations has been very positive and we are planning to continue this program next season.

- This season, we had two House League teams win gold, and several teams brought home silver medals in tournaments.
- We capped off our season with a successful Championship Weekend. 57 games in total were played across all divisions.
- 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 - Amy Wellings, Susan Amadio, Diane Chea and Lynne Morreau.

#### Competitive [Kim Leclair, Justin Jedlinks]

- It was very much a year of baptism by fire for both new comp directors this year, but we can say that though challenging at times, it was very rewarding.
- In our first full year of normal operations in 2 years, we were right back at it with a full complement of 22 teams across our 6 age groups.
- 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 and even those teams who had less success in the win column, found other ways to succeed and develop.
- We had a good representation at Provincials this year, despite a number of teams who narrowly missed out on tie breaker or 1-win scenarios, however we had 10 teams and 1 returning home with silver.
- This year's League Championship similarly had good representation, where we had 7 teams play in the finals (though could easily have had 4 or 5 more). With 3 teams all winning banners to hang at Minto.
- After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we are thrilled to announce that 196 girls' hockey teams participated in our 41st Annual NGHA "Paint it Purple for DIFD" Competitive and House league tournaments this year. Extremely successful event, that garnered recognition from many of the participating teams and associations, as well through social media!
- Huge kudos again (hopefully) to Mel Byrnes and Jen Wetmore for all their efforts. Thank you to all the parent and student volunteers who spent countless hours in the arenas, selling raffle tickets, 50/50 draws, merchandise and all of the above.

#### Registrar [Claire Bellefeuille on behalf of Rachel Ellison]

- As noted, this past season was our first using the RAMP system for registration and rostering.
- Despite a bit of a learning curve initially, we are in good shape now with this system.
- This season we had just over 830 registered players – we've slowly been improving our numbers, but are still not quite where we were pre-Covid.
- Despite registration opening just a few weeks ago, we already have over 300 players registered for next season.

#### Policy, Risk and Safety Director [Claire Bellefeuille on behalf of Kevin Singer]

- This season we updated a few policies to align with our current needs, including our policy on non-parent coach reimbursement and our NGHA team apparel guidelines.
- With the elimination of the ODWHA, a number of our policies will need updating and we will be working on removing references to ODWHA in our policies in the coming months.
- This year saw a number of suspensions for both players and coaches. While this number is higher than it has

been over the last couple of seasons, it is not unexpected as this was our first normal season post-pandemic.

- There were no disciplinary hearings related to inappropriate behavior on social media this season, which is a positive development.

## **6.0 Finance [Ray Murphy]**

- From a financial perspective, the NGHHA 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 NGHHA 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.

## **7.0 Bursary Awards [Lisa Camilucci]**

- Presentation of the both the Mary Lou Zywicki and Les Banks bursary recipients.

### Mary Lou Zywicki Bursary:

- This bursary award is in honour 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 NGHHA 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 NGHHA 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.
- Special thank you to our selection committee members: Lesley Salvatore, Diane Chea, Christa Delaney, Susan Amadio and Nicholas Sunderland.
- I'm very pleased to announce our recipients this year (please come up when your name is called):
  - Keira Cheeseman
  - Alexa St-Pierre
  - Samantha Perreault
  - Morgan Combden

### Les Banks Bursary

- This bursary award is in honour 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 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 described their volunteerism and giving back to the community.
- The successful applicant best exemplifies outstanding volunteerism, community participation and leadership.
- I'm pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2023 Les Banks Bursary is:
  - Shanna Hobbs

## **8.0 Election of Officers and Directors: [President]**

- As the Board positions that were open this year were acclaimed, there are no votes taking place this evening.
- The acclaimed positions are as follows:
  - Vice-President of Programs: Justin Jedlinski
  - Vice President of Operations: Kim LeClair
  - Competitive Director 1: Eric Pickering
  - Competitive Director 2: Rob Mahoney
  - House League Director 2: Tracy Foster
  - Treasurer: Raymond Murphy
- Welcome to our new Board member, Eric, and congratulations to everyone taking on new roles for the upcoming season.
- We have two Board members who are leaving the executive after many years as part of the Board. Chad Chambers and Marty White – thank you for everything you’ve done for the association and your years of service. You’ve not only been instrumental to running the association, but you’ve also been extremely important to me - I value the guidance and advice you’ve provided, and I am so glad we had the opportunity to work together.
- 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 2023-24 season.

**9.0 Adjournment (7:31 pm)** – Motion to adjourn the 2023 AGM moved by Claire Bellefeuille; seconded by Chad Chambers.

Approximate duration: 27 minutes