



**West Ottawa Ringette Association (WORA)
Annual General Meeting
May 7, 2009 Minutes
Kanata Recreation Centre**

Final

Executive Attendees: Kathy M^cCaw (President), Colin Harkes (Vice President), Jim Santagati (Director, Administration), Laurie Reading (House Coordinator), Janet Howe (Director, Logistics), Colleen Armstrong (Competitive Coordinator), Jackie Banning (Treasurer), Dawne Flaborea (Registrar)

Members in Attendance: See attached list

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 pm.

2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The draft minutes were available for review at the meeting, and were posted on the web site. Scott Smith moved that the minutes be accepted in their current format and Rich Wyatt seconded.

3. Executive Report

Kathy M^cCaw provided opening remarks, reminded everyone of the process for voting on motions/elections (one vote per family), briefly explained the items on the agenda and reviewed the past year successes:

- WORA teams collectively won 18 medals at tournaments, 3 gold and one silver at the league championships. We had representation at both Provincial events – the Petite Provincials attended the AA Provincials in London and the Belle A's attended the A Provincials in Gloucester.
- The WORA tournament was bigger and more popular than ever and we are starting to be recognized as a more significant player in the ringette community.

4. Competitive Operations

Colleen Armstrong presented the following as part of the Competitive report:

2009-2010 Teams

Based on the anticipated player membership for the coming season we anticipate having 18 teams next year plus our bunnies. The teams are as follows:

- 3 Belle teams – levels still to be determined
- 3 Junior teams - 1 Junior AA, 1 Junior A, 1 Junior B
- 3 Tween teams - 1 Tween AA, 1 Tween A, 1 Tween B/C
- 4 Petite teams - 1 or 2 Petite Provincial, 1 or 2 Petite B teams, 1 Petite C.
- 5 Novice teams – 1 B, 2 C, and 2 Rec
- Bunnies

Spring Tryouts:

Additional ice was used for the spring tryouts and allowed great exposure for all the players. Player Assessments from the coaches, combined with the player evaluations during the tryouts were used to place the players. The Junior AA and Tween AA teams and head coaches have been selected and a core group of players identified for the A teams. In the fall the A and Petite Provincial teams will be finalized and all the players making these teams will be notified at the same time. WORA has taken this new approach so that all the players returning in the fall give their best demonstration of skills.



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Final

Upcoming for 2009/2010:

Projects:

- Mid season player reviews – continuing with the Tween AA and Novice B practice of mid season reviews, the Tween A coaching staff identified player strengths and provided players with areas on which to focus for the rest of the season. Based on positive feedback we hope to implement this further and have all competitive players receiving official reports from the bench staff.
- Off ice fitness and nutrition programs – off ice fitness programs geared to ringette (i.e. spinning etc.) and a nutrition plan to guide the players through the year, are being developed.
- Competitive head coaches brainstorming meeting - coaches agreed that more regular competitive coaches meetings should take place next season to discuss strategies, what the coaches expect a player to know at certain levels, to work on some consistent break-outs all the coaches are teaching players etc.

5. House Operations

Laurie Reading presented the following as part of the House report:

- Coaches meetings – the meetings were held on a regular basis, were well attended and quite useful. Thank you to Colleen Moore for her input.
- Coach mentoring – a coach-mentoring program was started this year with positive feedback but coaches would like more steady representation.
- Summer Ice Program – Joey Grimm has organized this and is offering Novice/Petite and Tween/Junior summer ice with pick-up games. More info on web site.
- Bunny Program – WORA is continuing to work to improve bunny program by investigating potential partnerships with local Skating Clubs / other associations to gain additional ice.
- Power Skating – Several formats have been tried over the last few years however we continue to investigate additional options with local skating clubs as our goal is to offer power skating again in the fall.
- Fall Tryouts – we hope to follow the same format as the spring tryouts as the feedback was very positive.
- Goalie assistance - although WORA was not able to run goalie clinics this year, efforts were made to assist our goalies, i.e. WORA paid for our goalies to attend clinics in other associations and Hailey Moore provided one on one coaching to many of our goalies. We are looking into ways to further assist our goalies next season.

6. Logistics

Janet Howe presented the following as part of the logistics report.

- Although WORA requested greater ice allocation we received the same allotment from the City.
- City is reviewing their ice allocations with several options being proposed including reviewing ratio of weekend to weekday amounts, assigning ice based on registration, redistributing adult ice to minor times etc. - the full City report is posted on the City website under City Council.
- Buying more ice is not always feasible or possible as it is either last minute, out of town or at odd hours with no guarantee that teams will be able or willing to use it.
- The \$100 flat competitive fee for 2009/10 is required as most competitive teams are getting about \$1,000 worth of extra ice per season more than the House teams. Other costs for competitive teams, such as goalie equipment and training for coaches also tend to be higher.



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7. Financials

Jackie Banning presented a projection of the financial results for the year with the following highlights:

- End of year bank balance of \$31K, which is a result of a profitable year.
- Largest expense was the ice costs of \$74K. This ice cost is lower than budgeted as the Sensplex ice was not available this year and ice that fell on holidays and could not be used by teams was returned to the city.
- 2009-2010 Budget - the main changes from the current year is the increase in Registration fees and this increase is primarily due to the 12% increase in ice costs
- At Jackie's request, a motion was passed to appoint van Berkom & Ritz as our external accountants for the year ending May 31, 2009.

8. Administrative Report

Kathy McCaw presented the following as part of the administrative report:

- A big thank you to the following people for their valuable roles in the association: **Brian Sime** (Referee In Chief), **Scott Smith** (equipment manager), **Peter Johnson** (statistician and game sheet man), **Colleen Moore** (coaching coordinator), **Joey Grimm** (dryland and summer ice coordinator), **Norma Green** (Loblaws card coordinator), **Laurie Chatigny** (tournament coordinator), **Joan MacKinnon** (banquet coordinator), **Rick Holloway** (retiring webmaster) and **Kevin Meek** (new webmaster).
- NCRRL – looking to start games earlier next season, perhaps the 3rd week of September for the A teams and the 1st of October for the recreational teams, due to ice constraints and difficulty in fitting 18 games in the season.
- NCRRL will be placing an increased emphasis on accountability for penalties. They will be cracking down on excessive penalties and ejection penalties.
- Eastern Region Ringette Association - there is a lot of change in the works for the coming years. Much of it will be driven by the Long Term Athlete Development Model. The focus of LTAD is skills development and developing athletes for life, with less emphasis on competition and winning. Ringette associations are waiting for the release of a detailed plan by Ringette Canada. We should know more about what impact there will be for next year after the ORA has their AGM at the beginning of June.
- A motion was made by Bugs Green and seconded by Barry Gorham (with all in favour) to approve the association by-laws changes as described below:
 - remove residential restrictions as they are no longer necessary;
 - increase the current board size to 10 seats as 9 is not quite sufficient to facilitate getting new initiatives off the ground;
 - remove the requirement to have our financial statements audited as it is not cost effective nor standard practice for an association of our size;
 - removal of proxy voting and mail ballots;
 - move the year end date to May 31st.

Action Item – based on Scott Smith's suggestion, board to look at setting up auditing group, separate from the treasurer, to review the financials on a regular basis.



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9. Other Business

- Clarification was given that WORA's summer ice is currently geared toward house level players.
- Confirmation that the coaching handout, to provide guidance on what to teach the players at the various levels from Novice up will be expanded to higher levels. Mike Hogan willing to help out.
- Sandra Sawers mentioned some new sponsorship options that WORA might consider and also indicated she is willing to help with the banquet again as she has lots of ideas.
- Clarification was given that WORA is not a registered charity and therefore cannot issue charitable donation receipts to sponsors. We are a non-profit organization and can issue regular business receipts along with our sponsor thank you letters to support what is effectively an advertising expense for the sponsor. The thank you letter and receipt template are available to the team managers.
- The idea of corporate sponsorship was brought up and the executive recognized that this is something we need to pursue.

10. Election process

Kathy McCaw explained the electoral process as governed by the updated bylaws. There are 5 seats declared vacant - Colin Harkes, Janet Howe and Colleen Armstrong are at the end of their terms, one new seat created and a seat relinquished by Rob Ross.

Returning member position (two year term)

Colin Harkes nominated Colleen Armstrong. Seconded by Barry Gorham. There were no further nominations. *Colleen Armstrong acclaimed.*

Returning member position (two year term)

Laurie Reading nominated Janet Howe. Seconded by Linda Tremblay. There were no further nominations. *Janet Howe acclaimed.*

3 Vacant seats (two year terms) – at this point interested candidates were asked to come forward.

Barry Gorham was nominated by Linda Tremblay and seconded by Steve Reading.

Hal Stewart was nominated by Jackie Banning and seconded by Rich Wyatt.

Trevor Woods was nominated by Jim Santagati and seconded by Rob Rathwell.

Debbie Lepine was nominated by Dawne Flaborea and seconded by Laurie Chatigny

Chris Evelyn was nominated by Bob Trudel and seconded by Scott Smith

Voting was held for the 3 vacant seats and the successful candidates were *Barry Gorham, Hal Stewart and Debbie Lepine.*

The returning board members are Kathy McCaw, Janet Howe, Laurie Reading, Colleen Armstrong, Jim Santagati, Jackie Banning and Dawne Flaborea

The winner of the free registration for the 2009-10 season was Wendy MacGregor.

11. Adjournment

Linda Tremblay moved that the meeting be closed, Scott Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.