

# ANCASTER MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

Executive Meeting

Monday March 17, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

Attendees: Bryan Walters, Dean Morrow, Chris Naylor, Karen Viersen, Tim Missios, Milan Legris, Sandi Large, Len Van Berkel

Regrets: Jodi Rainford, Ian Milne, Mark Tower, Don Brown, Dave Rohrer, Brad Charlong

## Welcome

D. Morrow called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Although initially there was not a quorum present the minutes were recorded.

### 1.0 Rep Coach Selection

C. Naylor introduced the discussion of the rep coach selection, the committee's work and noted that at this time there would be 4 new rep coaches. C. Naylor noted that while all 2<sup>nd</sup> year coaches were offered teams some did not wish to return to rep coaching. The committee would like to see more coaches apply for the positions. C. Naylor then reviewed the coaches the committee has selected for next year.

Tyke Select: R. J. Farnworth, a new coach with much experience, commitment and hockey knowledge, but who will also be looking to the Director of Rep Hockey for additional direction with coaching.

Novice: John MacDonald is a new coach to the AMHL and was the only applicant to replace Kelly Reed who was not able to continue due to other commitments. Kelly has indicated a willingness to continue to help. John MacDonald brings much hockey knowledge and a good demeanor to this role.

Minor Atom: Pete Stampone incumbent coach. This will be Pete's 2<sup>nd</sup> year coaching as the committee did not have any major obstacles with his continuing. The committee is looking to Pete to choose and field a stronger team earlier this year, have appropriate AP players in place next year, as well as maintain an appropriate tone with officials.

Major Atom: Dave Murphy (a 2<sup>nd</sup> year coach and only applicant). Dave brings good hockey skills, well run practices and a successful team to this coaching role. The committee is looking to Dave to have clear communication and maintain balance with ice time and an appropriate tone with officials.

Atom AE: Mike Cassar, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year coach and the committee heard and had no issues with Mike taking the team for 2<sup>nd</sup> season.

Minor Peewee: Paul Lightfoot. A prior assistant coach with the Atom team, Paul brings knowledge of the game and has the respect of the players and parents. The committee is pleased to see Paul step up to this coaching role.

Major Peewee: Jim Ecker. Jim has a number of years of good coaching in the league including Minor Peewee. Jim brings much experience to this role and has done well with previous teams. The committee is looking to Jim to acknowledge and deal appropriately with any parent, player and league issues, develop 3 lines on the team and

ensure his coaching style adapts and responds to the players at this level.

Peewee AE: Lou Prosia. Lou has coached Tyke and Novice and brings a positive approach along with his experience and philosophy of the game to this team. The committee interviewed 3 applicants for this team and was not simply content with answers from a prior year application or having a team being competitive by bringing down AA players – which is a matter for the league’s Director of Rep Hockey (not a coach).

Minor Bantam: Dave Robson. Dave expressed an interest to coach rep this year including other levels. Dave is a non-parent coach, and brings hockey experience having played minor pro and with the Kings. Dave is organized and has a positive approach including recognizing player(s) each game. The committee interviewed other applicants including existing members of the team’s coaching staff at this time but did not see changes that might be introduced. The committee is pleased to see a new coach introduced to the team and sensitive program, having heard from the current coach that the team is not necessarily responding and finding it a challenge to concentrate and focus.

Major Bantam: Chris Naylor. Milan Legris, AMHL Secretary, read into the minutes the committee recommendation for Chris to take the team for a second year. Chris is an incumbent coach who possesses an excellent big picture view of the entire rep division. He is a non-parent coach who took over the team mid season when Tony Barreca stepped down for personal reasons. Chris did not select this team and he developed the team to winning level (from 0-8-1 to finish 15-9-3 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> best record in Tricounty). The committee is happy to accept Chris back as the Bantam AA coach. Chris brings a team philosophy to coaching regardless of players and parents and as a non-parent coach brings a more objective and less questioning approach when there are team issues. There were no other applicants.

Bantam AE: Marc St. Pierre. Marc has a number of years with the league and brings much coaching experience to the team. Marc’s son is an AE player. Marc brings the right personality, mentality and attitude to coaching, i.e. willingness to listen, take suggestions and input from others. The committee will be looking to Marc to select the right assistant coach and ensure there are 3 lines of players developed on the team.

C. Naylor discussed the OMHA rules which require AMHL to first ice a major midget team then a minor midget team, or a minor midget team and midget AE team. Issues with midget teams in AA centres was discussed including players signing Jr. C cards in the summer and drop off with this age group of players in High School. The league will be addressing this approach earlier this year during tryouts (C. Naylor will be running the player tryouts for Major Midget AA) to see the number of players coming for a major midget team. The league wishes to be prepared earlier this year to minimize the issue that arose last fall when an OMHA exemption was applied for (due to no major midget team being iced in Ancaster).

Minor Midget: unknown at this time

Major Midget: unknown at this time (However, as noted above C. Naylor will be running the player tryouts this spring).

C. Naylor will also be meeting with all rep coaches and ensure the coaches bring their philosophy and criteria for handout to the players at tryouts. D. Morrow and Mark Tower will be contacting the unsuccessful coach applicants. Overall the committee is happy with its rep coach selections and pleased to see the addition of 3 new experienced hockey people to AHML rep hockey coaching.

## **2.0 Reports**

a) Registrar – K. Viersen reported that from April 1 to April 30, 2008 reduced early bird registration (a savings of \$50) will open for all players (new and returning) for the 2008-09 season with AMHL. After April 30, 2008 registration will not reopen until August 1, 2008 and without the early bird \$50 savings. Opening of registration as well as rep player tryouts (from April 14-30, times and rinks) will be advertised in the Ancaster News. It was also noted that with the ice being removed from Morgan Firestone Arena on March 31 and Spring Valley arena on April 30 not all rep tryouts will be held in Ancaster. K. Viersen also noted that 3 teams remain in Tricounty finals and executive members are encouraged to attend home ice games and particularly those where medals may possibly be awarded.

K. Viersen also reported on 2008-09 ice requirements of 92 hours per week by AMHL. Currently AMHL has 85 hours per week and this includes 5 hours as follows (6-9AM @ Morgan Firestone and 5-7PM @ Spring Valley). The scheduling of House League games with referees also has to be considered and this item is to be deferred to the May 5, 2008 meeting.

b) Director of Rep Hockey – C. Naylor discussed a request for a player (Minor Peewee) to play up a division and the exceptional requirement, along with concerns of player's physical size (small and risk of injury), taking another player's position and alternative of going to play in a AAA centre (2 are available and nearby to Ancaster).

c) Special events – it was reported that Awards Day arrangements (for both House League and Rep divisions) are progressing well with t-shirts for the players and coaches, as well as hats for 1<sup>st</sup> place teams (players and coaches). The schedule of events for the Awards Day is being sent by email to the players parents.

## **3.0 New Business**

- a) Staffing rep tryouts – K. Viersen will schedule and send email to executive. Collection of tryout fee may be done on-line or requires a member to attend and collect at tryout.
- b) Goalie as team captain/assistant captain – C. Naylor discussed the embarrassing and negative views of AMHL when a goalie is listed as alternate captain on game sheet (immediate penalty) and from the hockey game side a goalie is not able to cross the blue line to deal with game issues and since rep goalies often alternate games the goalie is only on the ice every 2<sup>nd</sup> game. C. Naylor will draft a policy for the executive to consider and review.
- c) Agenda restructure – a suggestion has been made to restructure the agenda to accommodate members of the executive by placing voting matters 1<sup>st</sup> or earlier on the agenda followed by reports and discussion items.
- d) AGM – D. Morrow discussed that the AGM be scheduled for an evening during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June and will circulate an email among the executive to solicit preferences. Advertising for the AGM will be in the Ancaster News and with an email to the membership. Nominations for vacant positions will also be posted.

- e) Budget 2008-09 – B. Walters reviewed and answered questions on the budget proposed including a summary of the registration s fees (registration fees are to remain the same except CHIPs (\$35 reduction) and rep fees which are increasing to reflect the actual costs of ice and refereeing). The season plan by house league was also discussed to ensure on budget with the league’s ice plan. The budget indicates 1,000 registrations (versus actual registrations of 930 in 2007-08 and 1,080 in 2006-07). Discussion was noted of the trial convenor system, timekeepers of SHL of \$10 per game and cost of referee certification (\$120/referee) added to the refereeing budget. The process would be for the executive to pass the budget, set registration fees and open registration.

**Motion by B. Walters** - to accept the AMHL budget for 2008-09 with the ice budget attached for 2008-09 to develop the budget, seconded L. Van Berkel, and carried unanimously.

Discussion followed on the Ontario Trillium Grant and the need to spend \$21,000 by November 1, 2008 and use of moneys for goalie equipment, IP program, coaching equipment and library and training materials.

- f) Juvenile division joining Interlock (contact in 2008-08) – S. Large raised issue of Juvenile being in a contact league next year by joining Interlock. Discussed that this issue is an item matter for the AGM agenda.
- g) Referee in chief – discussion of league issues with scheduling, accessible supervision in Ancaster, opportunities and certification of referees. D. Morrow agreed to look into the qualifications for a Referee in chief and C. Naylor to review the by-laws on same.

#### 4.0 Approval of Agenda and Minutes of February 11 and march 7

Motion by L. Van Berkel and seconded by T. Missios to approve agenda and minutes, and carried unanimously.

#### 5.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by B. Walters and seconded by T. Missios.