

ANCASTER MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE
Annual General Meeting
Lions Outdoor Pool – Upstairs Room
Jerseyville Road, Ancaster
Tuesday, June 3rd, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

1.0 Welcome

VP Len Van Berkel called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and there were 27 AMHL members present.

2.0 Amendment & Approval of Agenda

Correction to Agenda

- item 5.0 New Business – Hall of Fame Award – 2008 recipient Brad Charlong
- item 7.2 - Current vacant positions of Board Members: “Director of Rep Hockey and OMHA Contact (vacant)” noted as no longer vacant and filled by Paul Stephenson.

Motion: It was moved by J. Hulsman and seconded by K. Viersen that the Agenda as amended for June 3rd, 2008 be approved. Carried

3.0 Review and Approval of Minutes of AGM June 3, 2007

The minutes of the June 3, 2007 AGM were summarized by L. Van Berkel for the members in attendance.

Motion: It was moved by K. Viersen and seconded by M. Cassar that the minutes of the 2007 AMHL AGM be approved. Carried unanimously.

4.0 Reports

It was noted that copies of all reports were available for attendees at the meeting.

4.1 Senior House league: S. Large summarized her report on the 2007-08 season including: the 2 drafts that were necessitated at the commencement of the season, the inability to have interlock play this year, and the success of the round robin playoff format. It was also noted that having a longer season and shorter playoff term worked well for the older hockey players, but in future with possible 5 teams in Midget division coordinating the season and odd number of teams may be a challenge. Question by D. Gallant about possible 4 on 4 play with 6 team format (i.e. by having fewer players per team) and looking to playing with another centre (Dundas possibly) was discussed along with issue with the Beverly centre wanting contact play. Question by M. McDuff concerning AMHL decision about non-contact play in house league, and discussion that this decision was passed at a previous AGM of AMHL. D. Morrow noted that this could be raised again for reconsideration, and that would require notice and voting at another AGM to reverse the earlier decision which would then permit Ancaster to compete with other centres that have contact play. S. Large advised

that with other commitments she is unable to return in 2008-09 to complete the 2nd year of this position with AMHL and D. Morrow thanked S. Large for her league work.

4.2 Junior House league: J. Rainford reviewed her report which noted a very competitive house league and this was further evidenced in the playoffs where league champs lost and even 5th place season teams were competitive, Awards Day being a great success and survey results (40% response rate) with 100% satisfaction. The report also highlighted aggressive play and competitive teams in Pee wee due to a high number of rep players in house league, introduction of a mid-year contentious rule in JHL on players and coaches due to the nature of play and player injuries, improved goaltender training efforts by the league (clinics and semi-private lessons), issues with Christmas break, an early Easter and officiating and agreement to improve this with the Referee in chief. In terms of the coming year the director is looking forward to working with Kenesky's on further goalie training and a coach application process due to the high number of people applying for bench staff positions in house league.

Question by M. McDuff about extra ice time and the success a Pee wee team had with extra ice time with Heads Up sports, the development of players which may ultimately strengthen the AMHL feeder system. L. Van Berkel pointed out the OMHA rule and ordering process for icing teams and while the AMHL may not endorse it, it is possible some teams may be playing other select teams. In addition there are issues to consider including paying for the ice time and liability insurance coverage. D. McGuire commented on Flamborough select teams in Atom, Bantam and Pee wee divisions and the responsibility for finding their own ice time and teams to play. L. Van Berkel noted that while this would not be solved this evening, it is possible to put this matter on a list of discussion items for the AMHL to consider. Question by M. Barlow on league regulating fundraising by teams in house league. J. Rainford pointed out this is an individual team matter in house league and that while the AMHL Manual of Operations permits extra fundraising it does not permit a team getting a 2nd sponsor. Discussion followed that any parent can say no to participating in such fundraising and coaches cannot make this mandatory, however notwithstanding the no obligation rule, players and parents may feel pressure to participate. J. Rainford noted this is something the AMHL executive should review and at a minimum ensure there is reporting and accountability. K. Viersen noted parents in house league do not sign up for extra fundraising in comparison to rep teams and pressure may still be felt without a coach saying it to parents and the extra fund raising can be varied in purpose by a team from extra ice time, to obtaining extra help on ice, to skating drills/lessons. J. Weirda noted that there should be accountability with statements issued to parents and the league in case anything happens or questions are asked. J. Rainford suggested that s. 7.2 of the AMHL Manual of Operations be enforced and amended as needed.

4.3 Treasurer: B. Walters reported on financial statements and attachments as distributed. He highlighted the financial statements of the 2006-07 year referring particularly to - page 8 of the handout i.e., where the league ended up on its April 30, 2007 fiscal year, and page 2 of the handout where the league ended up on its April 30, 2008 fiscal year and where it is budgeting for April 30, 2009. For April

30, 2008 the AMHL is projecting a deficit of \$7,885 due to reduced revenue from fewer player registrations, reduced fundraising with the Bulldogs Day and reduced rep team surcharge. In addition, ice cost to the AMHL is up by approx \$40,000 from buying additional ice at Wentworth Triple rinks and cost of City of Hamilton ice having risen 6%. The league also purchased extra ice in Sept. 2007 and for house league during Christmas 2007, paid for the volunteer police checks (\$1,800). Currently the league has \$65,000 in its bank account, \$355,000 in investments (due to registration money (\$262,000) received in April 2008 for 2008-09 season) and received a Trillium Grant from the province of Ontario in the amount of \$20,000 to date.

M. Barlow asked about the league Trillium Grant. K. Viersen commented this money comes from the province's gambling and slot revenues and is to be used towards sports and recreation activities, including player experience, coach and volunteer development. The league intends to use this Grant money for league equipment and a resource library.

B. Walters summarized the 2008-09 budget and its projected deficit of \$20,000. This is intended by the league since it had a surplus 2 years ago of \$20,000 and in keeping with its non-profit objective, it wishes to ensure that continuous surpluses are not run, nor is this status of the league put at risk. In this budget the league is not increasing player registration fees, and with 3 Midget teams the rep surcharge will increase but so too will the ice allocation. It is projected for the league to end the next year with the \$119,000 in the bank and a members' equity/capital of \$119,000 (down from current \$138,000 at April 30, 2007). In 2007-08 the league had 970 players registered and we are projecting 1,000 registrations in 2008-09 along with budgeting for convenor costs (player registrations) and timekeepers in house league. M. Barlow asked about volunteer police checks and it was confirmed that they are rechecked each year. J. Hulsman asked about the league running an annual surplus. B. Walters commented that there is a risk to the league being challenged on its non-profit status by Canada Revenue Agency if surpluses were run and accumulated year over year. At the same time it is reasonable for the AMHL to run a hockey league and yet earn \$8,000 of investment income per year and particularly with the members equity and capital (surplus) accumulated to date. K. Viersen and B. Walter also commented that ice costs are generally increasing year over year by 5% and this is what is budgeted for in 2008-09. D. McGuire asked about the cost of timekeepers in house league versus use of volunteers in rep hockey. L. Van Berkel commented about the inconsistency of timekeepers in house league where parents are often new or not familiar with the game in comparison to rep hockey where family and friends are more involved with the team and the game. M. Barlow asked about the advertising of paid timekeeper positions and the optics of paying someone for doing a job he/she did not apply for. C. Bellefeuille suggested the league use Ancaster Youth Employment Services for screening and training. M. Barlow noted that since she works with Ancaster Youth Services she would like to assist the league with this need. M. McDuff asked about using high school student volunteers for timekeepers to fulfill their community activity requirements. S. Large noted that the students were not reliable and inconsistent in showing for the required timekeeping at games. D. Brown (AMHL Referee in chief) pointed out that for rep teams, the parents take turns with time keeping

otherwise it is an additional cost to those non-involved parents, yet overall there are legal obligations/ramifications associated with the accurate completion of game sheets particularly in the event of a player injury. A question was asked about the increase in professional fees and it was pointed out that the increase was a result of an ice scheduler/registrar that was hired for the league and voted on at the 2006 AGM.

Motion: it was moved by B. Walters and seconded by J. Hulsman that the April 30, 2007 financial statements of AMHL financial statements reviewed by Brownlow & Associates be approved. Carried unanimously.

Further discussion of 2008-09 budget with \$19,000 projected deficit to offset 2006-07 surplus of \$20,000. D. Brown (RIC) asked about proposed referees' fee changes by OMHA. Discussed that \$8 increase over 2 years is being proposed and is to be voted on by OMHA next weekend.

Motion: it was moved by J. Hulsman and seconded by D. Brown that the AMHL budget for 2008 - 09 be approved. Carried unanimously.

Further discussion of appointment of accountants to review AMHL financial statements which is less costly than audited statements. Local Ancaster accounting firm of Brownlow & Associates has been statement reviewer for last 3-4 years.

Motion: it was moved by C. Bellefeuille and seconded by J. Hulsman that Brownlow & Associates be appointed to review the financial results of AMHL. Carried unanimously.

4.4 Sponsorship: T. Missios presented his report and noted that it generally deals with house league teams since rep teams are responsible for much of their own fundraising. He noted that this past year 48 teams in house league were sponsored by 26 organizations of which Tim Horton's was a large sponsor. He also thanked all sponsors by name and indicated that letters requesting sponsorship for 2008-09 had been sent to all sponsors with some replies already being received. While AMHL may look at an umbrella sponsor for the league, this would raise obvious issues with existing individual sponsors. It was noted the umbrella/main sponsor for Ancaster girls' hockey is Ancaster Toyota and it has its crest on each player's jersey. In addition, with the rinks being City of Hamilton property, the boards and Zamboni advertising are a city matter. M. Barlow raised issue about certain house league teams having certain accessories, items and/or tournaments paid for by a parent(s) and this becoming a competition in and of itself in the division. Discussion followed on difficulty to regulate generosity or enforce who a team can take money from and make it apply to a division not just a team. C. Bellefeuille noted that board should consider statement that such contributions are voluntary and at house league there is no requirement for parents to pay anything further. J. Rainford noted that there should still be accountability to the league if there is an expectation that a team will do some of its own fundraising.

4.5 Initiation Program: I. Milne was unable to attend so his report was delivered by D. Morrow. It was reported that the IP had an exceptional year with an increase in the number of players from prior year and Bulldog night being very successful. Initially there were issues having coaches certified in the IP program as all but 4 of the coaches were new this year. A big thank you to everyone involved with IP especially the efforts of Micheline Craft.

4.6 Secretary: M. Legris reported on meetings of the AMHL executive every month following the 2007 AGM on June 3, 2007, and during 2008 to the 2008 AGM today. A new initiative this year was posting the board minutes to our website upon approval at the subsequent meeting(s) and recently our agendas have been restructured to put voting items first followed by discussion items. The AMHL currently has a number of policies and procedures under development including: Privacy, CPR and Refund of registration fees. The City of Hamilton information website (www.myhamilton.ca) has also been updated this year and will be updated after the AGM.

4.7 Registrar/Ice-Scheduler/Webmaster: K. Viersen reported that player registrations for 2007-08 were 970 (down 9% from the prior year). This is attributable to midget team issues and some families choosing to register with the Chedoke league. Current registration was open during April and will reopen in August. Strong registration numbers have been received and some divisions like Peewee are close to full. Final ice schedule from the City of Hamilton will not be known until September. Last year girls' hockey in Ancaster received more Ancaster ice time resulting in some AMHL teams having ice time at the Quad pad or Chedoke. Parent and player reaction did not seem too negative to this change. Recommendations include working with house league convenors for scheduling especially at the start of the season and holidays. This year, the league also place more current information for parents on the website.

4.8 Rep Hockey and OMHA contact: C. Naylor was unable to attend and his report was presented by D. Morrow. C. Naylor is stepping down from this role in 2008-09 due to other work requirements; however Paul Stephenson is taking up this role with the executive. C. Naylor's report included a summary of the playoff results by Ancaster teams, a listing of the rep coaches for 2008-09 and a motion by AMHL that in Tri County play the Smith A division appears more suitable for the Ancaster Midget team. Other recommendations included: 1) that teams should not request play down but strive for a high level of competition, especially at the AE level, 2) with the addition of 2 Midget teams, more ice time be found for the midget teams, 3) travel permits be obtained with a 1 time payment to the OMHA, and 4) the league purchase of both home and away sweaters with the teams paying for the 2nd set by having it added to the rep surcharge. L. Van Berkel noted that Chris who is still coaching with AMHL, is a great asset to the league, was always thoughtful in his answers to board and player issues and will be missed.

Question from the floor about the 2nd set of rep jerseys. In the past, the league bought 1 new jersey each year so players had 1 new and 1 old jersey. This year, with allowing players pick their numbers for the 2008-09 season a vote of rep coaches (12 to 4 majority) agreed that the purchase of the 2nd jersey this year

would be added to the teams rep surcharge (and not a cost to the league). It was also added that in order to have a Midget AE team, the league must first ice both a major and minor midget team.

4.9 Vice-President: L. Van Berkel reviewed his report and noted that he was involved in chairing grievances and monitoring adherence (and consistency) to the league policies. While league policies have developed over the years, the league needs to bring its policies into electronic format (from hard copy). With respect to chairing grievances and disputes, recommendations include changes to the league's dispute and discipline processes and having a parent liaison for every team (rep and house league).

4.10 President: D. Morrow thanked everyone in attendance at the AGM and the members of the board. D. Morrow summarized league developments this year including: expanding IP with extra hours and full ice and having a competitive house league as a result of player evaluations and drafting. In 2008 it was noted that the Ancaster public should watch for a public use study (coming in Sept. 2008) and noted that Councillor Ferguson's idea to twin the ice pad at Morgan Firestone arena by 2010 was approved by Hamilton city council. With respect to Spring Valley arena, there are proposed changes to the facility and the public use study will also be important on what happens to and at Spring Valley arena in the future. D. Morrow noted that a resource centre is proposed for downtown Ancaster and there are several ideas on how this property could be used. The AMHL supports this resource centre initiative and the twinning of the ice pads at Morgan Firestone Arena. With respect to 2008-09, the league needs to build a strong executive and consideration should be given to looking at committees or reworking the workload of executive members. It is imperative to our success that everyone in the community gets involved with helping the league. Question from M. Barlow regarding possible demolition of Spring Valley arena. Discussion followed that no one has heard of any such proposed demolition.

4.11 Referee-in- Chief: D. Brown (RIC with AMHL) spoke to the meeting. He arrived as RIC with AMHL in the fall of 2007 and noted there was a slim list of officials with the league. His focus in 2007-08 and next year will be to develop the league officials and this means bringing both the younger and more senior officials along in progress. Limited assistance was received from the OMHA supervisor and D. Brown takes full responsibility for continuing to develop officials and officiating with AMHL. During the year, D. Brown took AMHL officials to both Glanbrook and Southern County games and in the process has certified 3 young officials for rep hockey to Bantam level, 3 more were certified up to Midget and Juvenile officiating, and 1 official to OHA level. In addition, senior officials were involved with mentoring the younger officials. Having started the season with 3 level referees in Ancaster, the season ended with 6 level 3 referees in Ancaster.

In 2009-09 he is looking forward to continuing to develop league officials in Ancaster so that it will be able to stand on its own with officials. In terms of attending a referee clinic the minimum age is 14 and a referee must be at least 2 years older than the division he/she referees in. With respect to rep hockey referees the minimum age is 16 and he/she must be a level 2 certified referee.

While AMHL officials and officiating have come a long way in 2007-08, our officials need to continue to develop and learn and this will also help in having better hockey in the league. In terms of recruiting, all centres have good skaters and we want to encourage them to get into the game by refereeing and offering them payment for refereeing that will help them with other expenses they may have. D. Brown noted that for a young referee the hardest part is calling a penalty and going to a bench to tell a coach to stop saying/doing something. Question from the floor asked about referee clinics. Response was clinics are available 1) in Paris (@ Paris High School) with a cost of \$120 for a day long clinic with a test that follows to become a referee, and 2) with the OMHA (offered in Guelph) with a cost for this 3 day (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) junior clinic being \$300 with both classroom and on ice training on how to make calls to become a referee. There are other junior clinics around Ontario during the year, but the Guelph program is the only 3 day clinic.

4.12 No report: Player & Coach Development, Special Events, Equipment Manager and Past-President.

5.0 New Business – Presentation of Hall of Fame Award. D. Morrow spoke to the league awarding the Hall of Fame Award in 2008 to Brad Charlong. This award was last presented to Ian Morley in 2004. D. Morrow recognized Brad Charlong' ten years of service to the AMHL board starting in 1998 as Convenor of Junior house league, and then moving to Equipment Manager a role he has filled for the last 8 years.

6.0 Approval of Financial Report and Proposed Budget 2008-09

Previously dealt with under Reports, 4.3 Treasurer.

7.0 Appointment of Auditor for 2008-09 year

Previously dealt with under Reports, 4.3 Treasurer.

8.0 Election of New Board Elections

8.1 Even year elections

D. Morrow announced the following acclaimed directors as there was only 1 nomination for the position and no elections were necessary.

Vice President – Tim Missios - acclaimed

Coach & Player Development – Len Van Berkel – acclaimed

D. Morrow asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Motion by D. Morrow and seconded by M. Cassar to nominate J. Rainford as Director of Junior House League. Carried unanimously.

Motion by D. Morrow and seconded by J. Hulsman to nominate B. Walters as Treasurer. Carried unanimously.

D. Morrow asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Director of Sponsorship and Director of Equipment. There were no further nominations.

8.2 Current Vacant positions

D. Morrow asked if there were any nominations or motions from the floor for the current vacant board positions of Past-President, Director of Initiation Program, and Director of Senior House League. There were no further nominations or motions.

L. Van Berkel mentioned that our role was to give the gift of hockey to the little players and encouraged everyone to get persons from the community involved. D. Morrow noted his involvement since 1998 and that building the league and its players starts at the grass roots level and we need younger players and community involvement to ensure players want to come back to play each year. Suggestion from the floor to send a letter to all Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes at Ancaster schools mentioning AMHL for players before the school year ends.

9.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Joel Hulsman and seconded by M. Barlow.
Carried unanimously.