

***St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 27th, 2008***

In Attendance: Derek MacMillan, Chris Smith, Adrian Douglas, Cindy Hodgins, Charmaine Goddeeris, Rhonda Rickwood, Sheila Nesbitt, Brian Jacobs, Doredi Contardo, Steve Woolley, Mike Brisson, Lois Corkum, Troy Carlson.

Guest: Dave Westaway

Regrets: Dave Thomson, Clay Trumble

Ex. Officio: Lisa Smith

1. Meeting called to order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm.

2. Previous Minutes:

Brian asked if there were any errors or omissions from the previous minutes there were none.

Motion #27 11/27/08

***To approve the minutes of the October 30th Meeting.
Smith/Rickwood***

Carried.

3. Business Arising:

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

4. Development Report - Dave Westaway:

Dave is sharing the responsibilities for the IP Program with Derek MacMillan and Rob Meth. The program is using the CHIPS manual to be consistent. The primary focus is on skill development, there has been some grumbling about not enough games but they have let the parents know of the importance of practice and that during practice every players gets equal time to touch the puck, that doesn't happen in a game.

Tyke Select is up and running, 50 kids attended tryouts they have selected 2 teams each with 4 or 5 AP's to help grow the program for future years. They are not going to make things too serious. The White team had played their first game, and they found some things like changing on the fly difficult since the players had never done it before. They will only be using 1 goalie per game and the back-up will play out. The main focus will be on practice with the occasional game. There were some parents asking what would happen next year, would there be 2 novice teams. Brian explained that was the Board's intention, to have 2 Novice teams next year in order in increase the potential pool of players at Atom and above.

Dave had some questions regarding fee's for AP players since they will be benefitting greatly from the additional practice time.

Motion # 28 11/27/08

That the Tyke Select Roster players pay a fee of \$100 per player plus tournament fees and the AP's pay a fee of \$40.

Smith/Douglas

Carried.

Goalie Equipment - A concern had been raised regarding the amount of smaller Goalie equipment, having tyke and novice games at the same time on Saturdays has meant a shortage of equipment. A list of requirements was established and Chris will look into purchasing what is needed.

Brian introduced the newest Board Members Derek MacMillan, Steve Woolley and Troy Carlson. He also noted that John had offered to rescind his resignation given Dave Thomson's recent health issues.

Goalie Clinic - we had received an offer from Steve McKeagn to run a goalie clinic, Brian has spoken to him and we are looking at setting something up during the Christmas break.

5. House League Report:

Brian received a letter from our Novice Convener Bob Churchill, that house league parents are upset because they have to subsidize the travel program. Brian completed a detailed review of the income and expenses related to both programs and has clarified for Bob that the Travel Program is NOT subsidised by the House League program. For 2008-09 both programs are on track to have a surplus this season. The Travel expenses are funding the Midget program as these are the players who are working towards and could benefit from it.

It was pointed out that perhaps the House League parents aren't aware that the Travel Players pay a premium on their registration fees bringing them to approximately \$710 plus tournament fees.

6. Treasurers Report:

To date we have 14 players who were approved through Jump Start and we only received \$450 from Jump Start and \$900 from the Ontario Minor Hockey Foundation. The number of players requiring assistance is only going to increase and the dollars available to them are decreasing.

Sheila expressed some concern with our refund policy, we give back 100% up until a given date and we should have an admin fee to cover our costs (Sheila's and Administrators time, Cheques, stamps) It is also felt there should be 2 different refund policies for Travel & House league.

We have received a request for a refund from 2 travel players, who have not paid their team fees, and the teams is concerned with now having to come up with their portion of the teams fees. IT was decided Sheila will prorate the team fees the same as the registration fees and deduct them from the registration refund.

The final donation to the Timken Centre will be made in January. Since the money is invested in a GIC which matures in January the city has agreed to allow us to make the donation then. This will allow us to gain the interest off the GIC for as long as possible. It was suggested that we plan a formal presentation for our final donation to get some exposure for the association. Not many people realize the Association has maintained their commitment to the arena fund without increasing registration fees.

Some Board members wondered if any of the subsidized families were from Travel, some people might have difficulty understanding how a family who can't afford to pay their registration fees can afford the travel and tournament fees, hotel bills etc. Sheila pointed out that there are some travel players and most of the time when the team goes out of town that player travels with another family.

Motion # 29 11/27/08

To accept the Treasurer's Report.

Brisson/Corkum

Carried.

7. Travel Report:

Chris asked that Board members re-enforce to the teams that ice is being scheduled to the best of our ability.

Doredi questioned how are teams are doing in the Alliance. It was pointed out that overall our teams might not be winning many games in the Alliance but we have to keep in mind that our teams are facing better competition on a weekly basis than we have in the Shamrock and this means our teams are having more success in Tournaments and OMHA playdowns. Troy pointed out we have to "winning" out of the picture and determine if the players are still having fun. It can be a long hall when the team is losing, but if they are still having fun then that's what counts.

Mike questioned a rumour of expanding boundaries. Chris explained that it is something being looked at by Hockey Canada. Currently Ontario is the only province with this type of residential guidelines. Nothing has been agreed upon yet, but Chris will keep us informed. Brian pointed out that if this goes through we will have to work harder to sell our program.

OMHA Playdowns, looks about the same as last year, Chris will approach Sue about us potentially moving away from the Bluewater league this year.

8. Disciplinary Report:

Adrian updated the Board on suspensions handed down.

1. The Midget player suspension handed down has been followed with the exception of the apologies. Adrian will make sure they are followed through on prior to the player re-joining the team.
2. The Parent suspended has not complied with any of the penalties imposed on him. The referees association has also expressed concern with this, and they are prepared to take it higher if needed. Adrian has investigated our options and has suggested that the Family's membership with St. Thomas Minor Hockey be revoked until the Parent starts to comply with the suspension. This means the player will not be allowed to play. It was stressed, while the Board does not want to see the player suffer we have to keep in mind that it is the Parent who is punishing the player by refusing to comply with the suspension.

Motion # 30 08/11/2008

To revoke Family X's membership until such time as the suspended parent begins to comply with the penalties previously outlined.

Douglas/Smith

Carried.

Mike Brisson abstained.

Adrian will inform the family.

9. Special Events:

House League Final day will be March 28th and we will go with the same set up as last year. Gift Cards will be purchased as door prizes. No date has been set for the Travel Banquet. Doredi hopes to utilize some of the unused trophies from past seasons, as awards for the banquets.

Golf Tournament - Lisa presented some options on behalf of Dave. The Board agreed to move the Golf Tournament to Pleasant Valley hopefully on a Saturday afternoon in September.

10. Tournaments:

Tyke Tournament - We have 14 teams so far and we are looking as many teams as possible.
House League Christmas Tournament - will be held December 17th - 30th and the schedule will be ready next week. It will be published in the Heart of St. Thomas again this year. We are hoping to give it more of a tournament feel for the house league players and divisions tyke and above will have standings and final games.

11. Sponsorship:

Mike updated the Board that the Centennial Sports Club will again making a donation towards the Christmas tournament, they will pay a portion of the ice bill directly to the City.

12. Ice Report:

Lisa handed out the ice report, there were no major concerns. Lisa pointed out the Atom team had benefitted with additional ice due to their tournament schedule. Lisa also noted some coaches have noted the teams using the AM practices must see an advantage for making use of those times, if the other teams all receive the same ice time then there is no incentive for them to make use of the AM and there would be 5 hours less prime time ice to go around. Adrian suggested we show the AM ice times as .75 hour that way those teams will not be credited with a full hour and every 4th hours will not be counted towards their total.

Steve questioned why we don't use ice in Strathroy or another centre like we use too, Brian pointed out that was done prior to the Timken Centre being built and it would increase our ice costs since non-residents pay a premium on ice time.

13. New Business:

The Food Drive will be Saturday November 29th. The Midget Trip to Boston is December 3rd to 7th. They will be travelling by bus.

The Atom AE Manager provided a quote for Home and Away signs for the benches, Lisa will pass it on to Kent.

Bantam Europe Trip - Brian explained that this was one of the programs we were developing as a reason to play here, similar to the Midget program it provides players a reason to want to play in St. Thomas. To date the Bantam team is half way to their fundraising goal. However they are short a couple players on their roster and they are wondering if they can approach some players from a younger team to fill out their roster.

Troy questioned what STMHA currently gives to the team, Brian explained the last time a team travelled to Europe STMHA provided up front the \$1000 sanction fee, which was then kept by the team to cover their transportation costs to the airport.

Motion # 31 11/27/2008

The St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association gives approval for the 2008-09 Bantam team to travel to Europe in April 2009.

Smith/Rickwood

Carried.

14. Next Meeting:

December 18th 6:00pm

@ the Beanery