

**St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association
Annual General Meeting
May 21st, 2009
Timken Centre**

1. Welcome:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Brian Jacobs welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Brian extended a special welcome to Dave Warden, St. Thomas City Councillor and Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Department, who was attending the meeting as an observer.

Motion AGM 05/21/2009 #01

To Accept the Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting April 16th, 2008.

P. Ostojic/B. Jacoletti

Carried.

Brian asked if there was any business arising from those minutes, there was none.

2. President's Message:

Welcome to the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association.

I sincerely appreciate your attendance.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to become a positive voice in your child's minor hockey experience.

This is an opportunity for you to examine how the peers you have elected to run our Association have fulfilled their duties.

The purpose of the S.T.M.H.A. is to:

- 1. Provide for the participation in the game of hockey for players who desire to participate;*
- 2. Instruct the players in the basic fundamentals in the game of hockey, both as players and referees;*
- 3. Promote the spirit of good sportsmanship, courtesy and respect towards their fellow player's, coaches, referees, volunteers and parents/guardians;*
- 4. To develop and encourage sportsmanship, community spirit and good fellowship among all participants to the betterment of their physical, mental and social well being.*
- 5. Promote the game of hockey and obtain the financial support from the public to ensure that all players are given an equal opportunity to participate in the game;*
- 6. Accept donations and bequest to be used to promote the game of hockey within the St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association.*

The past year has been challenging for our Community. As we look to next season many of our families will be faced with difficult choices. With that in mind our Board of Directors have worked very hard on our fundraising ventures to keep our registration fees at the same level for the upcoming 2009-2010 season.

As parents, if you are faced with the decision to register your child in organized sports or not I ask that you take some time to reflect on the importance minor sports plays in the development of our youth. Participation in hockey provides opportunities for leadership and socialization as well as the development of skills for handling success and failure. Experts agree children who participate in organized sports do better in school, have better interpersonal skills, are more team oriented and are generally healthier.

2008 saw the completion of our financial commitment to the new St. Thomas Timken Community Centre. The St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association has donated a total of \$175,000 to the construction of the new complex.

In September of 2008 the London Knights travelled to St. Thomas to play an exhibition game against the Erie Otters. On September 12th, 2009 the London Knights will once again travel to St. Thomas for an exhibition game against the Plymouth Whalers. We are excited to once again host one of the best teams in the OHL for this exiting match up and thank both Mark and Dale Hunter in their continued partnership with St. Thomas Minor Hockey.

On Saturday August 8th we will host the 4th Annual "Tom Gilson" Memorial Golf Tournament at Pleasant Valley. This tournament is continuing to grow and has become one of our primary fund raising events. You can contact Dave Thompson on our Board for further information or log on to our website.

Our competitive major and minor travel teams will again participate in the Alliance Seeded League for 2009-2010. There are some minor changes to scheduling which will benefit our Association directly. The A/AA split will be moved one month earlier to mid-November. Our teams will participate in the second half of the Alliance league this season. Shifting the split one month earlier will help alleviate the scheduling 'crunch' of both Alliance games and OMHA playdown games in January. Our Novice and AE teams will continue to participate in the Shamrock league.

Earlier this month Chris Smith and I attended an OMHA 'Town Hall Meeting' to review the 'Made for Ontario' initiative.

On Saturday May 2nd, the OMHA hosted a 'Town Hall' Meeting to discuss the Made For Ontario Plan. This Plan stems from the Notices of Motion at the 2008 Semi-Annual Meeting of Hockey Canada, Motion # 7 which addressed the issue of residency and increased player movement. Although that motion failed, the Ontario Hockey Federation, as the Branch, proposed that "regardless of the outcome of Motion # 7, OHF Minor Council will actively continue its review of Minor Hockey residency within the OHF."

There have been no decisions regarding the direction of the OMHA with regard to increased player movement.

We have made some copies of the notes of that meeting which outline the results of the online survey on the OMHA website. They are available here. If additional copies are required you can contact Lisa in the Minor Hockey office.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those parents who took an interest in their child's minor hockey experience and volunteered their time as a Coach, Trainer or Manager. You have been a positive influence on more than just your own child. The programs we develop would not be possible without you.

As a Board we are committed to providing your child with the best possible hockey experience in both our House League program and our Representative (Travel) program. This cannot be accomplished without literally hundreds of volunteer hours. I would also like to thank the many, many volunteers who have given their time for our young athletes over this past season.

To our Community minded sponsors your financial commitment to our Association has been incredible. Your continued support enables our Association to focus on building and developing programs for our young hockey players.

I urge you to consider becoming a member of our Board of Directors. There are many rewarding opportunities as a Board Member in our Association. Not the least of which is an opportunity to work with other like minded individuals to develop our hockey program to best meet the needs of our young athletes. Again, thank you for attending and have a great summer.

2. Treasurer's Report

Sheila apologised for the additional handouts but explained it's very difficult to provide the most update to date information when the meeting is so close to the Associations year end. Sheila thanked everyone for their support over her past three years on the Board and as Treasurer. She admitted that prior to taking a position she was one of those parents who thought Minor Hockey ran magically on its own, when in actual fact many dedicated people put in many house to make things work.

Sheila highlighted the following points:

- 2008 saw a decrease in registration and there were a lot of requests for refunds.

- Over the past 2 or 3 years we have gotten away from selling pizza's and cookie dough for fundraising and have instead concentrated on larger events such as the Knights Game and Golf Tournament.
- We are investigating ways of decreasing expenses, phone etc.
- We will be charging a \$25 administration fee on all requests for a refund.
- 2008 saw higher equipment costs, New Travel Jerseys were purchased for the Midget Team & new goalie equipment was purchased for the House League program.
- A contractor was hired to build lockers in the storage room.
- The third and final payment to the Arena Capital Campaign was made without increasing registration fees.
- For the first time in 4years we have run at a deficit.
- We have a new Registration Deadline – July 1st after which a \$50 late fee will apply.

Brian explained we currently base our ice request for the upcoming season on our past years registration and by moving the deadline to July 1st we will now have a better picture on our upcoming registration numbers prior to making any final adjustments to our ice allocation.

A question was asked if House League and Travel were budgeted separately. Brian explained that in some cases yes, budget items were split. He explained that the Budget Committee had done a careful analysis of the House League & Travel Programs to ensure that one program was not subsidizing the other and determined that they are not.

There were no further questions regarding the Treasurer's Report.

Motion AGM 05/21/2009 #02

To accept the Treasurers Report.

L. Corkum/C. Hodgins

Carried.

3. New Business:

Paul Tustanoff questioned what the addition of the London Forest City Teams would mean to the teams participating in the Alliance Seeded League. Chris explained the addition of the Forest City teams meant some slight changes to the structure of the League, Minor Atom to Major Bantam will now play a 31 – 33 game schedule. The first half would have 13 games beginning September 19th and ending November 15th. The Second half of the season would include 18-21 games depending on finish to be completed February 7th. Our teams will return to participating in the second half of the Alliance season. This will also mean an overlap with the start of our OMHA playdowns. Minor & Major Midget teams will play a 36 game Round Robin schedule.

Joe questioned if the Shamrock teams will continue to receive a lower travel team fee due to their lower game schedule.

Chris highlighted the list of Travel Coaches contained in the AGM package:

Novice – Derek MacMillan
 Minor Atom – Kevin Johnstone
 Atom – Pete Manfredi
 Atom AE – Chris Sanford
 Minor Pee Wee – John Cook
 Pee Wee – Scott Tottle
 Pee Wee AE – Joe Bilyea
 Minor Bantam – Adrian Douglas

Bantam – TBA
Minor Midget – Walt Malinaro
Midget - John Corkum

It was also pointed out that the progression from having 2 Tyke Select teams last year, STMHA was hoping to have a Novice Roster Select team, which play some exhibition games and possibly a tournament.

The Tyke Select and Initiation Programs will continue to grow as we move towards full implementation of the IP Program.

Paul Tustanoff asked if there were programs in place for parents who can't afford to pay registration fees. Brian explained that STMHA finds away to help any families in need of assistance. First they are directed to any outside agencies such as the Canadian Tire Jump Start Program or the Ontario Hockey Foundation; from there any families who qualify are assisted further by STMHA. We are continually looking at ways of building up our own assistance fund, things like excess sponsorship money may be used for those who need it. Lisa pointed out that an Atom Chiefs player had donated his birthday money to help a player who required financial assistance.

4. Board Elections:

Brian explained the election process: There is a ballot with some nomination already printed on it, we will take any further nominations from the floor. There are currently 7 Board positions up for election. You can vote for a maximum of 7 people on each ballot. The top 5 nominees will received 3 year terms and the 2 with the next highest votes will received 2 year Board terms.

Nominations had previously been received for:

Troy Carlson	Sheila Nesbitt	Rob Clark	Heiu Reid
Derek MacMillan	Clay Trumble	Steve Woolley	

Brian asked if there were any further nominations from the floor:

<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Accept/Decline</u>
Bill Jacoletti	Peter Ostojic	Accept
Rhonda Rickwood	Angie DaCosta	Accept

Peter Lynch Sr, Lisa Smith & Melissa Douglas were appointed scrutinizers.

The follow were elected for 3 year terms:

Troy Carlson	Sheila Nesbitt	Rob Clark
Derek MacMillan	Steve Woolley	

The following were elected for 2 year terms:

Clay Trumble	Peter Ostojic
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Motion AGM 05/21/2009 #03

To destroy the Ballots.

C. Smith/S. Mikulinac

Carried.

Motion AGM 05/21/2009 #04

To Adjourn.

P. Lynch/L. Corkum

Carried.