

Meeting Minutes - St. George Old Masters

March 26, 2015

Prepared by Jason Gambacort

Location: St. George Legion

Members Present: Ross Thompson, Steve Ferretti, Gold Hilborn, Mark Decker, Andrew Bannister, Ken Johnston, Jason Gambacort, Cody Thomas, Bob Kividen, Sebatien Gagnon, Brian Sharp, Casey Clark, Mike Benallick, Sheila Greydanus

Call to order: 7:05pm

1.0 Welcome/Elections

- Ross Thompson, current President notified the group that due to changes in work circumstances, he no longer can devote the time needed to remain as President and is stepping down.
- In 2014, the positions of Vice President (Rich Barnes) and Secretary (Dave Earle) were vacated and need filling as well.
- Ken Johnson nominated Mike Benallick for Secretary, which was seconded by Casey Clark. A vote carried the nomination unanimously.
- No nominations were put forward for President and Vice President. The group agreed to ask for volunteers/interest in these positions during their individual team meetings.

2.0 Treasurers Report

- Current bank account is at approximately \$2500.00.
- Diamonds have been booked and post-dated cheques for the County will be written shortly.
- Balls have been ordered from HD Brown.
- Tentative team fees for 2015: \$1100.00 per team. No increase from 2014.
- On the matter of insurance: The County of Brant now offers league insurance, which has traditionally been purchased through Slo-Pitch Ontario. Ken Johnson will

approach the County for pricing and have info available for next meeting. SPO pricing is approx \$690.00.

- Ken J also handed out the 2015 hand written schedule and some discussion was had regarding the Canada Day July 1st holiday. The holiday falls on a Wednesday this year so will we play on the Wednesday or move it to an adjoining weekend instead? As the holiday approaches and we get a better consensus of what days players will be taking off, a decision will be made regarding when the July 1st games will be played.

3.0 Umpires

- Game officials will be paid \$30.00 per game, same as 2014
- Barry Cox will be returning however his availability may be diminished this year as personal responsibilities are an issue. Chuck Shantz has had a job change which won't allow him free time to umpire so he is not available for 2015. Eddie Loder may return but in what capacity is unknown at this point
- The league is in need of umpires. There was some discussion about umpiring our own games during the regular season to save money, however finding umpires to work the playoffs only may be a challenge. Ken J knew of a new guy that could easily get carded, as well as Harry Timmerman was suggested as a possibility. Ken is going to contact Harry and the new fellow to see if there is interest.
- Tentative Umpire list for 2015: Barry Cox, Eddie Loder

4.0 Fun Day and Lyle Wood Golf Tournament

- Fun Day for 2014 was cancelled due to the untimely passing of Dave Earle. Discussion was had regarding the continuation of Fun Day, as they have become a lot of work with diminishing participation from the league members. It was suggested that focusing resources towards a continued "Year End Banquet" similar to the successful Anniversary Banquet may be the way to go, in lieu of Fun Day. September events vs. having Fun Day in the middle of summer may also work better when it comes to avoiding holidays etc.
- Woody's Golf Tournament it was agreed, was still a very fun and viable event and the members would like to see this repeated in 2015. Rich Barnes who traditionally has organized this event was not on hand to confirm if he'd be interested in doing it again this year. Jason G will contact Rich B for more information.

5.0 Other Business

- There was a suggestion to revisit using the yellow/green balls again for better visibility. It was indicated that the league had tried them for one season, and the general consensus of the majority was that at dusk, they caused particular visibility issues and overall the standard white ball was better.
- The 5 imports rule was brought up, with the suggestion that we may increase it to help with perceived diminishing numbers in the league. Other suggestions to help with this was to perhaps relax the rules regarding the South Dumfries border. That relatives of those currently in South Dumfries would also qualify. Generally the group agreed that the South Dumfries border rule should remain in place and the current number of imports was appropriate, citing the recent history of when the conduct a few Brantford teams caused problems in the league. The issue of diminishing numbers was discussed further and it was agreed that it was too early in the year to tell if our numbers were going to diminish. The status of the young men's league in St. George was in question for 2015 so there is a possibility of a few eligible players from that league joining the Old Masters League. We agreed we'd revisit this if it proved that numbers were diminishing.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm

Post Meeting Discussions

- Without all members present, some additional discussion was had regarding the format of the playoffs, indicating that the current system could be improved. This issue will be included on the agenda for next meeting.
- Sheila G also indicated that the current version of the Constitution was dated 2010, when amendments were supposed to be made in 2013. Jason G will provide the 2013 version to the next meeting for approval and discussion as well as include this item in the agenda.

Next meeting: April 16th at 7PM, located at the St. George Legion.