

Augusta Minor Softball – Minutes – February 3, 2009

In Attendance, Steve Ferguson (Athens), Hugh Hanna (Lyn), Penny Bell (Greenbush), Mike Limburg (Johnstown), Marlene Neddo (Roebuck), Bill Pakeman (Augusta Township), Angie Perkins (Greenbush), Julie Taylor (Augusta Ball), Debbie Shea (Past President)

Promoting Ball - Steve began the meeting by thanking all who came and reminded everyone of the fall meeting that emphasized the need to meet early in 09 to get a jump on promoting ball before spring registration.

Many ideals were tossed around.

- school flyers
- local newspaper ads
- approaching the townships of all recs to publicize local ball on their websites
- have coaches contact players early from previous season

*Marlene Neddo volunteered to speak to Ron Smith of the Brockville Recorder and Times and to write an information article

*Debbie volunteered to write up an information sheet on methods to promote ball and this will be circulated to all the recs.

*Bill will submit information for the Augusta Township Web Site. Steve will compile the information, ie contacts in the area, etc.

Executive vs Chaired Association – currently Augusta Minor Softball is without a President and a number of people would either like to step down or are tired of carrying most of the responsibility. After the loss of Dave Hone, we are also without a Rules and Discipline chair.

Steve suggested the the executive of Augusta be dissolved and that a new association consisting of a Chair , a Secretary and a position of Stats and Scheduling be formed. Similar to Hwy 29, all decisions will be made as a group. The chair will lead the meetings and ensure information is shared, but the onus of rules and discipline, tournament formats, trophies, advertising, etc will be shared by all. Problems that need to be ruled on will be circulated by email and a time deadline of reply will be given. The chair will compose informative emails and circulate the result. This will need to be talked about in more detail at the next meeting.

Stats and Scheduling – Julie stated that for the last number of years, Rob Fauser would have stepped down, but was hesitant as he felt the association was not equipped to continue the website, electronic scheduling and score reporting. Steve Ferguson offered to take over these duties as he already looks after scheduling and reporting for the Hwy29 league.

Julie confirmed that the township owns the domain, website and scheduling software. It was unclear whether the interface on the website was Rob's or the township, but Steve and Julie would confirm with Rob.

- Steve will now look after the website, scheduling and score reporting.

Fee's – it was requested that the township reconsider the fee structure for teams outside the township. Last season, Debbie and Steve had talked about the honorarium and both had agreed that the honorarium was not necessary. This was presented to the group and all agreed that with a new Chair structure, honorariums were no longer merited and that the fee structure should be addressed. Bill asked what we would like to see and all agreed that \$10 a team to cover league costs. This would include the website and any agreed advertising or other expenses that benefitted the entire league. Recreations within Augusta would also submit the \$10. A new bank account would be created to manage the money. Tournament trophies would become the sole responsibility of the host association.

Tournaments / Playoffs – the group discussed last seasons playoff. Some did not realize the amount of work that it took to organize the playoffs, deal with complaints and the constant battle with teams on why games were not being played. Steve suggested that if playoffs are decided on in the future, that someone needs to volunteer to be the convener of the playoffs in that division. Debbie reemphasized that playoffs are a bad idea. Many agreed. The consensus was that a tournament allows everyone to schedule time off work and makes it easier to find umpires. We will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Scheduling - based on last falls suggestions and reiterated at this meeting, a white board will be used when teams are submitted to ensure that games will be evenly distributed throughout the week. When the majority of teams select the same home nights, it only allows for a maximum of 12-14 games to be played. Julie suggested a 1st and 2nd choice of home nights. Steve mentioned a team submission deadline of May 8 for changes, but submissions will/should take place earlier that week or late in April. Schedules will be circulated via email before going live. This will be discussed further at next meeting.

Unreported Scores – it was suggested that Augusta should follow the Hwy29 example of unreported games being recorded as 7-0 for the visiting team. To be discussed further at next meeting.

Umpire Clinic Hugh Hanna will continue to organize and host the umpire clinic that Dave Hone had planned to run this spring. More information to follow.

Dave Hone – Debbie led a discussion of the contributions Dave had made to the association and how he had been an active volunteer and leader in the community. We all reminisced about our personal experiences and how he would be remembered. Committed, understanding, involved, talented were just a few of the terms used to describe our experiences with Dave. A card of condolence, signed by all in attendance will be sent to the family.

NEXT MEETING - Tuesday March 10, at 7pm

Agenda - email Steve to have an item added before March 7th.
– election of a chair
- review most of the items from February meeting

