

FYHA Annual General Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020

Delta Fredericton Ballroom

Attendees: Heidi Boulter, Darrell Sharpe, Leslie Paul, Nancy Didiodato, Mark Somerville, Darren Goodine, Kelsey Pye, Melissa Lockhart, Jessica Jones, Alex Vanderlaan, Kristy Cairns, John Burns, John O'Toole

Regrets: Paige Betts, Matt Forster, Annalee Brewer, Dave Nicolle, Nancy Wilson

Call to order: 6:07 p.m.

Roll call and confirmation of registration and voting delegates:

- Pre-registration was required due to COVID-19 and physical-distancing restrictions. Of the 93 registered, 62 eligible voters are in attendance

Motion to approve the minutes from the last AGM (May 16, 2019): moved by Darren Goodine, seconded by Leslie Paul

Business arising from the minutes: none

Correspondence: none

Reports of Directors/Coordinators

Timbits (now U7):

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- Very few issues with timbits this year
- The biggest challenge was the number of players on teams after the First Shift program players joined
- Recommendation would be to lower number of players on teams

Novice (now U9):

- Coordinator not in attendance
- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM

Atom (now U11):

- Coordinator not in attendance
- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM

Peewee (now U13):

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- Melissa took over as interim director towards the end of the season

Bantam (now U15):

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- Due to COVID, the season ended abruptly before provincials, where our teams were expected to do well

Midget (now U19):

- Coordinator not in attendance
- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM

Director of special events:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- Difficult end to the year
- The novice jamboree was cancelled the night before it was to begin, which was tough for families, but we were following all Hockey Canada directives
- The Capital Invitational was a huge success

Director of property and equipment:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- This will be Darren's last year as director
- Jersey return has been an issue due to COVID-19

Director of coaching:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- Coach selection was different this year – Mark conducted interviews which was helpful. He enjoyed meeting people
- There were a number of skills sessions held that the kids enjoyed – Peter Murphy, Mike Eagles, Eric Pye, Todd Pye assisted
- Mike Gillingham and Matt Vautour from Hockey New Brunswick were a big help
- Fair play was a bit of an issue again this year. It seems to be a misunderstood concept

Director of discipline:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- This was Jessica's first year on the board
- There were some challenges and differences of opinion in some situations, but we will learn and do better where we can

Director of operations:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- This was Leslie's first year as director of operations. Mark Somerville and John Burns helped a lot

Treasurer:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- 2019/20 was positive financially
- Due to COVID-19 and the unexpected end of the season, there were some expenses and revenues that didn't take place, such as the jamboree
- Our sponsors were also valuable this season. Sponsorship for the upcoming season will be affected
- Registration for 2019/20 was a little lower
- The Capital Invitation was very successful – our thanks to the volunteers and sponsors
- The Cap may not happen this year, which would be a huge loss financially
- Leslie has done a great job with ice bills and keeping us on track schedule-wise
- General expenses have stayed the same. The FYHA applied for a rent subsidy this year to help
- Our insurance has stayed the same but the billing has changed from 12 months to 6 months
- This year will be tight fiscally but we will offer the same quality

Question from the floor: Do we get rebates from the city for ice time lost?

Nancy: No, we don't buy ice in advance. We pay the city in the month following, after the ice has been used and the hours tallied up.

Question from the floor: Has there been any discussion around reimbursing families for the lost ice?

Nancy: No, that hasn't been discussed. We only pay for what we use and the only ice we lost was when the season was cut short.

General manager:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- At the start of the season we hosted Roger's Hometown Hockey and received a \$10,000 donation from Scotiabank
- First Shift is very popular as always – we had two full sessions with 45 kids each
- 95 teams attended the Cap – a very divisions were jam-packed

- There was a lot of strain put on officials – thank you to Matt Forster and Eric Drummie for making it work
- We appreciate the support from the community – thank you to sponsors and volunteers

President:

- Report was disseminated for review prior to AGM
- This was a busy and interesting first year as president
- Season overview:
 - o New handshake rule
 - o Division name change
 - o COVID-19
 - o Atom pathway pilot project – we implemented this season ahead of Hockey Canada introducing it in 2020/21
- There were many development sessions – thanks to Sarah Hilworth, Kevin Pottle, and everyone who helped
- We started the 50/50 online fundraiser this season – it brought in some money, not a ton, but it helps to keep registration and costs down
- Ice was a challenge. We often get bumped because of special events
- Officials: every year we lose some young officials, due to graduation and other reasons
- Draft process: we brought in individual evaluators this year to help with ranking and drafting. It worked about 80% and we're considering how else to continue improving the process

Question from the floor: There's unlikely to be big national events this year, like curling, so will we get that ice?

Heidi: Right now there are no tournaments allowed, so we don't expect much lost ice.

Question from the floor: So will you rent more ice?

We probably won't rent any more ice than last year due to fiscal restrictions.

Comment from the floor: Noticed ice has been declining for younger groups.

Question from the floor: If people keep missing ice times, how can they want more?

Heidi: Most tends to be on the weekends and can't all be used. If there are 10 extra times for your division but 75% of your teams are away, the remaining two or three teams can't use it all. Extra weeknight ice time is hard to get.

Question from the floor: Officials graduation but many leave due to mistreatment from coaches and parents. What can be done?

John: Matt Forster (absent) would need to be part of this discussion, but we can strategize ways to improve their experience. A coaches meeting would be impactful to demonstrate how their criticism is hurting officials. We understand coaches may have frustrations, but we have to educate young officials, not humiliate or berate them publicly.

Question from the floor: Do we or could we conduct exit interviews with officials who leave?

John: We haven't done that, but it's a possibility. Not all officials who leave do so because of abuse. Some graduate, some decide it's not for them.

Question from the floor: Is there any sort of informal feedback process or safe zone for young officials to seek advice or support? It would allow them to be able to approach a friendly peer and talk to them if needed.

John: We have a supervision program for older, established officials to watch young officials and give them feedback. We also have a Program of Excellence like players. But often, those older officials are in the rinks themselves officiating games.

Question from the floor: Is there any kind of program to teach parents who don't understand hockey the rules? Can we report spectators who are abusing officials?

John: HNB has policies. If you see that kind of behaviour in the rink, report it to HNB and they'll take over the process. Alternately, call John at the FYHA office. Our code of conduct is also online.

Comment from the floor: Parents and guardians are also required to take Respect in Sport – this is covered in that program.

Question from the floor: Matt Forster's report recommended giving officials back-to-back games to make it "worthwhile" for them. If they have to travel a long way for one game on a weeknight, they might not see it as worth it. That could help with some retention. Is that possible?

John: It can be discussed. It would most likely happen on weekends though.

Comment from the floor: 2020/21 is going to look a lot different for all of us, especially because of the new school times. Everyone will need to be more patient.

Notices of motion

Motion to accept existing constitution: moved by Kelsey Pye, seconded by Jessica Jones.

Question from the floor: What are we voting on?

The document which establishes the FYHA and its bylaws, etc.

Todd Pye from the floor: The constitution can only be changed once a year at the FYHA AGM. Membership votes on any changes and there must be a 2/3 majority of voting members present.

Vote held; motion passed

Unfinished business: none

New business: none

Question from the floor: Is this new business for the 2019/20 season, or for the 2020/21 season? If it's for the future season, it should be discussed by the 2020/21 board.

This is new business for the past season. The new board doesn't assume their positions until the conclusion of this AGM.

Report of the Nominating Committee presented, followed by elections

There are 17 positions available, four of which are vacant

There are 62 eligible voters in the room; 32 votes are needed to be elected

Scrutineers: Todd Pye (President, Hockey New Brunswick) and Hazel Wells (District 3 Director)

Voting held by raised hand

President:

- Nominated: Heidi Boulter and Frank Collins (nominated from the floor)
- Frank Collins declared elected

Vice-President: Kent Brewer (nominated from the floor) elected by acclamation

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer:

- Nominated: Nancy Didiodato and Nick McCarthy (nominated from the floor)
- Nick McCarthy declared elected

Director of Operations: Leslie Paul elected by acclamation

Director of Special Events: Ben McFarlane (nominated from the floor) elected by acclamation

Director of Property and Equipment:

- Martin Goodine and Sean Fraser (nominated from the floor)
- Sean Fraser declared elected

Director of Coaching: Eric Morgan (nominated from the floor) elected by acclamation

Director of Female Development: Kelsey Pye elected by acclamation

Director of Discipline: vacant

U7 coordinator:

- Alex Vanderlaan and Amanda MacDougall (nominated from the floor)
- Amanda MacDougall declared elected

U9 coordinator:

- Matt Steeves and Natalie King (nominated from the floor)
- Natalie King declared elected

U11 coordinator: vacant

U13 coordinator: vacant

U15 coordinator: Stefani Leduc elected by acclamation

U18 coordinator: vacant

Voting concludes: 7:30 p.m.

Volunteer awards distributed

Comment from the floor: It would be nice for the new board to have a brief bio so parents know who they're working with.

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. – moved by Alan Underhill, seconded by Alex Vanderlaan