



**Newmarket Baseball Association
EMC Meeting – September 9, 2009
Minutes**

Present:

President	Tim Brown
VP Rep Program & Past President	Ted Williams
VP Finance	Ron Clarke
VP Registration, Awards & Special Events	Peggy Hawksworth
Executive Director	Donna Trempe
VP Senior Houseleague	Catherine MacNeil
VP Junior Houseleague	Stephen Fenn
Secretary	Ray Bassett
VP Rules of Play and Umpiring	Sam Sproule
Honorary Life Member	Carr McLeod

Absent:

VP Equipment and Diamonds	Vacant
Honorary Life Member	Don McKnight

1. Call to Order

1.1. A meeting of the NBA Executive Management Committee (EMC) was convened on September 8, 2009 at the Magna Centre and was called to order at 7:36pm.

1.2. The President welcomed the committee and reflected that it had been a good baseball season.

1.3. Draft minutes from the meeting of the EMC on June 11, 2009 were tabled and reviewed.

1.4. Moved by Ted Williams that the June 11, 2009 draft minutes be approved as presented.
Motion seconded by Peggy Hawksworth. Carried.

1.5. Draft minutes from the meeting of the EMC on July 15, 2009 were tabled and reviewed.

1.6. Moved by Carr McLeod that the July 15, 2009 draft minutes be approved with items 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 deleted.

Motion seconded by Catherine MacNeil. Carried.

1.7. Action items from the June 11, 2009 and July 15, 2009 meetings were considered and there was consensus that most items had been addressed, with the following outstanding items:

1.7.1. The issue of incident reports was raised in light of an injury to an Aurora player at a Newmarket diamond in a Bantam game. Concerns were expressed that coaches and team managers generally may not all be diligent in filing Incident Reports. There was consensus that the following actions be taken:



1.7.1.1. Sample Incident Reports will continue to be placed in all House League Coaches binders

1.7.1.2. a sample of the report and the procedure will be posted prominently on the NBA website

1.7.1.3. consideration will be given to including reference to the Incident Reporting process in covering e-mails to coaches for the 2010 season

1.7.2. VP Registration plans to double check for possible mis-postings of registration fees on the new web system to identify the accurate list of outstanding registration fees to be collected.

2. House League Report

VP Jr House League reported:

2.1. the season went as well as expected

2.2. there were only a couple of coaches that would not be recommended to coach next year, having had instances of missed games and practices, and parent complaints about inappropriate conduct directed toward players.

2.3. playoffs went well

2.4. Rookie playoffs were scheduled over a single day. While there were some advantages in a single-day schedule it was generally felt by the EMC that this schedule is too compressed, with the potential of teams playing 3 games in a single day. It was felt that no more than 2 games should be scheduled in a single day.

2.5. Jr Rookie was scheduled over 2 days and went well.

2.6. T-Ball closing went very well, with an abundance of volunteers. VP Jr House League to consider keeping track of how many volunteers arrived versus how many were needed in order to avoid having 'idle' volunteers in 2010.

VP Sr House League reported:

2.7. Due to weather, the Bantam closing is schedule for September 10th and 12th.

2.8. Some interesting and competitive results were recorded in the Peewee division, with the team having a 24-0 season record losing in the final. In the Midget division 2 of the lower ranking teams played in the finals.



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- 2.9.** Tribute was again paid to the 16 year old Lucas Raisbeck who coached this year and who tragically passed away during this season.
- 2.10.** Mosquito went well. A couple of coaches raised the issue of imbalanced skill levels on some teams, although these complaints seemed to be isolated. VP Jr House League commented that the skill balance issue can up in the junior divisions and he implemented a plan to re-balance teams a couple of weeks into the season, but because no players were willing to change teams no re-balancing was in fact done.
- 2.11.** There were some challenges in getting players in the Jr Rookie and Rookie divisions to volunteer to play as call ups in the higher divisions.
- 2.12.** There were some issues with umpiring in Georgina and confusion with the improper use of a 3-man crew system.
- 2.13.** Umpiring for playoffs was very good.
- 2.14.** Tim's cards were given to Midget division finalists and were well received. No awards were available for the junior division.

3. Treasurer's Report

- 3.1.** Cash flow remains fluid, with a number of cheques awaiting deposit and several expenses not yet finalized.
- 3.2.** Generally revenue appears to be below expectations.
 - 3.2.1.** There is a significant shortfall in Sponsorship revenue, although the Exec Director noted that several sponsors have not yet met their commitments.
 - 3.2.2.** Registration revenue also appears to be below expectations reaching only \$125,000 rather than the expected \$145,000. It was noted that this needs to be reconciled against the plan given that registration numbers were very good and on target. The Select and Rep fees should also reconcile very closely with plan.
 - 3.2.3.** Current bank balance about \$10,000, but may become a small deficit after outstanding expenses:
 - 3.2.3.1.** diamond costs not finalized – Town of Newmarket is still working on the final billing, which will include credits for rainouts.
 - 3.2.3.2.** umpire payroll is not finalized
- 3.3.** Generally there needs to be a close reconciliation of registration and sponsorship revenue well in advance of the AGM.



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- 3.4. The Treasurer requested that all outstanding expenses be submitted as soon as possible.
- 3.5. Ted Williams advised that there is one outstanding OBA transaction (which will be cash-neutral, money in – money out).

4. Rep Update – VP Rep

- 4.1. 10 of 11 NBA rep teams participated in the OBA Provincials. While many teams participated based on Mega-Tournaments, some (i.e Minor Peewee tier 2) earned a place in an OBA Elimination. Results included:
 - 4.1.1. Minor Midget won Silver
 - 4.1.2. Rookie #2 won Silver
- 4.2. VP Rep provided a selective over view of the success of the NBA teams in their respective YSBA Championships, including:
 - 4.2.1. Minor Midget defeated Aurora and won the division
 - 4.2.2. Minor Peewee won the division
 - 4.2.3. Bantam won the division
 - 4.2.4. Rookie #1 placed 2nd
- 4.3. Coach interviews will be held on Sunday, September 13th
- 4.4. Rep Coach selections will be announced September 15th
- 4.5. Tryouts are scheduled for Sept 19-20th and Sept 26-27th
- 4.6. YSBA Award nominations are due September 15th
 - 4.6.1. nominations require approval of the NBA President. Since the nominations are invited by e-mail directly the President has received a couple of calls from YSBA confirming NBA approval. Approval is intended not to screen for merit, but rather to screen for frivolous or crank nominations, and to ensure nominees are members in good standing of NBA.
 - 4.6.2. there appear to be some broken links on the YSBA web site and the nomination forms
 - 4.6.3. there was a shared view that nominations from NBA members should be encouraged.

5. Select Update – VP Sr House League

- 5.1. Midget and Bantam came 3rd in SOBA.



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5.2. Mosquito came 2nd, and had to play 3 games in a row in a single day to advance to the finals.

5.3. Carr McLeod expressed some concern with the current structure of SOBA Championships, with several dedicated select teams winning. He said YSBA is considering promoting a number of changes to the SOBA structure for 2010, including:

5.3.1. introducing a 2-division (A and B) championship to allow more teams an opportunity to participate

5.3.2. Amalgamate the SOBA and YSBA rules, - pitch count rules for example.

5.3.3. Eliminate metal bats at the Midget level.

5.3.4. consistent lead off rules

5.4. Carr McLeod noted that 206 of 210 schedule games were played – 97%, in spite of the weather.

6. Umpiring Report

6.1. There was confusion over who would pay for umpires in a game in Markham that was scheduled as a Newmarket home game but was played in a Markham diamond. This has been resolved.

6.2. VP Umpires expressed concern over an escalation in the number of ejections in 2009:

6.2.1. 9 ejections in house league (4 coaches and 5 players – including 1 visiting player)

6.2.2. 5 ejections in rep

6.2.3. VP Umpires shared excerpts from a number of ejection reports with the EMC to acquaint them with the degree of disrespect and inappropriate conduct encountered by NBA umpires this season. He is very concerned with a growing lack of respect for the role and authority of umpires during a game, and a lack of respect for the game itself.

6.2.4. The problem is largely (though not exclusively) in the Midget and Junior divisions.

6.2.5. several umpires have indicated that they do not want to return for the 2010 season because of coach/player conduct.

6.2.6. there was discussion of action, including consideration of a 5-game suspension, including carry-over into the next season.

7. Executive Director's Report

7.1. 2010 is the NBA's 50th season. EMC should consider opportunities to promote this special milestone. A year end banquet is a suggestion.



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7.2. A revised logo incorporating a stylized '50' has been produced by the ED, and is included, for example, in the Era-Banner advertisement for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

7.3. The web site is updated with Rep tryout dates.

7.4. An advertisement for Rep tryouts will be published in the Era-Banner on September 10th

8. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

8.1. Scheduled for October 14, 2009 at the Newmarket Community Centre, Hall #1 – convenes at 7:00pm

8.2. EMC VP's to have written reports finished and e-mailed 1 week in advance (Oct 7th) to the ED to produce 50 copies for distribution at the AGM.

8.3. there was discussion about whether some recognition should be given to the OBA Silver winners, Rookie #2 and Minor Midget.

8.3.1. consensus that both teams should be invited to attend to receive recognition at the AGM, with Certificates for the Rookie #2 team to be handed out by 4 or 5 members of the Minor Midget team in uniform.

8.3.2. ED needs copy of roster for Rookie #2 team to produce certificates, and will contact coaches to extend the invitation.

8.4. Volunteer recognition was considered, but there was consensus that no further recognition is required at the AGM. There was also consensus that no formal recognition is required for paid positions within the NBA.

8.5. An announcement for the AGM will be published in the Era-Banner on September 10th.

8.6. ED will arrange to have the House League plaques engraved in advance of the AGM

8.7. VP Umpires has made his selections for the Wes Green Award.

8.8. Catherine has made selections for the Hollingsworth award for Bantam, Peewee and Mosquito.

8.9. Coffee will be ordered from Tim Hortons. Water will be purchased.

8.10. Tim Brown will make inquires after a projector to display an NBA team photo slide show during the AGM.

8.11. Carr McLeod queried the EMC whether the financial statements of the NBA should be reviewed by an independent party prior to the AGM. There was some discussion and it was suggested that given that 2009 saw a transition to the new Treasurer a full review may not be



warranted. In past years Don McKnight has performed an informal review function and it was suggested that he could be asked to provide a similar review this year, time permitting.

8.12. Carr McLeod inquired where an independent person was required to administer an election of a new NBA executive after the current executive is dissolved at the AGM. There was consensus that this was required. As an honorary life member of the EMC it was proposed that Carr McLeod could perform this function without conflict at the AGM.

8.13. The President advised that he will be canvassing incumbent EMC members about their intentions to stand for re-election, with a view to proposing a full slate of members to the AGM.

9. Other Business

9.1. There was discussion around the need to involve more volunteers in the NBA to spread the work load and ensure sufficient resources for special projects and tasks as well as ongoing functions.

9.1.1. it was suggested that the EMC should develop a list of functions, tasks, projects, that would be assigned (in whole or part) to volunteers on the premise that clearer volunteer task descriptions would act as an enticement for more volunteers. Some of the functions, tasks, projects considered included:

9.1.1.1. scheduler – 2 or 3 positions

9.1.1.2. batting cage scheduler

9.1.1.3. liason with Town of Newmarket re diamond scheduling

9.1.1.4. picture day

9.1.1.5. opening day

9.1.1.6. diamond maintenance – bases, tape measures, hammers etc.

9.1.2. there is also a desparate need for convenors.

9.1.3. there was discussion of whether changes in the structure of the EMC might be required to accommodate additional volunteers, including the idea of EMC members at large, a new executive VP to oversee volunteers, and other ideas. There was consensus that the Constitution and By-Laws as currently drafted provide that the EMC VP's should create sub-committees of volunteers that report through the VP to the EMC. The issue of accountability in the structure may be sufficiently addressed

9.2. There was agreement that this issue should be considered at the upcoming planning meeting.



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9.3. The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce has identified NBA as one of the best not-for-profit organizations and intends to recognize NBA at an award banquet Oct 21, 2009.

9.3.1. Pres and ED shot a 30-second UTube-style promo last week, and there was also photos of an exhibition game staged for the purpose between 2 bantam teams.

9.3.2. It is considered necessary that the NBA have representation at the awards banquet and there was discussion over participation. Cost appears to be \$100 per person.

Moved by Carr McLeod that NBA sponsor the Pres and the Exec Dir to attend on behalf of NBA, and that other EMC members be welcome to attend at their own cost.

Seconded by Peggy Hawksworth. Carried.

9.4. The planning meeting will be held Sept 27, 2009 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon at the Magna Centre board room. The agenda will include recruiting and managing volunteers and NBA's approach to tournament hosting.

10. Other Business

10.1. Ted Williams advised that he required two other EMC members to participate on the Rep coaches selection committee. It was agreed that the committee would consist of Ted Williams, Tim Brown and Catherine MacNeil.

10.2. Catherine MacNeil proposed that the question of trophies for next year be discussed at the planning meeting.

10.3. Treasurer requested that VP Umpiring provide copies of the umpire payroll when it is finalized.

Moved by Sam Sproule that the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Catherine MacNeil. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm.

Prepared by R. Bassett