



**Annual General Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 7:00 @ Abby Rec Centre – Rm 2/3

Call to Order: 7:11 PM

Quorum Met: 56 members in attendance.

1. Presidents Welcome - Rob Brandsma

2. Adoption of Last Meetings Minutes

3. Presidents Report – Rob Brandsma –

Highlights from the last season included championship banners won from multiple levels, the start up our blast ball program, the updating of our website making is much more user friendly and the start-up of a winter training program for 13U-15U. We are hoping to focus on coach development this year as well. A goal we have this year is to work with the City of Abbotsford to improve our fields and develop a program to better our fields. Thankful for all our board members and volunteers who are stepping up to help this organization run.

4. Treasurer's Report - Mike Pratt / Stephanie Deglan

Mike Shared a presentation with upcoming changes in fee structure for the 2025 season and gave a breakdown of where the money is being spent across the board. A presentation on the breakdown of 2025 costs for each league, Spring, Summer, Single Season and Fall was given. A comparison between 3 other associations around the lower mainland also showed our new fee structure is comparable to other associations.

Last year the association ran a deficit of 60K which was a result of mispriced single season and summer season fees, city of Abbotsford over booking, uniform costs being much higher than anticipated and other misc. fees that were not budgeted for such as NCCP training, BCBUA Umpire Registration and mentorship and full year temporary fences. Moving forward calculators and analysis tools have been created to assist when making financial decisions for the association. Next year with the increase in registration fees we will no longer be running a deficit.

Mike will be resigning as Treasurer before his last year and will be replaced by Stephanie Deglan. Mike will continue to support her in this role for the next year.

Motion: To retroactively change the Fiscal Year end from January 1 – December 31 to November 1 – October 31. Motion Passed 1st Lance Nichol, 2nd Teresa Vogel. A vote was also taken and passed by a majority.

Motion: to pass the FY2024 Financial Statements. Motion Passed 1st Rob Brandsma, 2nd Chelsey Iwama. A vote was also taken and passed by a majority.

Motion: to pass the FY2025 Budget. Motion Passed 1st Joe Meleg, Craig Vogel. A vote was also taken and passed by a majority.

Question from the floor:

What are we doing with GIC – Still 90K left and we have made \$2100.00 interest to date.

Will there be any money in the budget to help teams with Westerns and Nationals? In previous years money was given to help. Going forward we would like to try and help mitigate costs for provincials, westerns and nationals and we are allocating a small amount in our rep and summer fees to help with this. This past year a lot of money was raised by fundraising.

Board will add an agenda item to the next meeting to discuss how and to what capacity we can support teams that make westerns and nationals

VP1 Chelsey Iwama – Head of the disciplinary committee. Deals with coaches, parents and player issues. Oversees tournaments coordinator and umpires as well as the scheduling coordinator.

VP2 Brad Nedimovich – Various levels of success across all levels speaks to the talent and dedication of our coaches. New revamped winter evaluation process that we are excited to roll out this year. Grassroots program with the 5U program which allows coaches to get involved earlier and hopefully continue to develop coaches for the older levels and technical directors roll expansion will assist in the evaluation and selection of players for our rep program as well as increased support for our coaches at all levels.

5. Director Reports

a. Director 1 (7u-11u) – Colin Dawes – Oversaw the 5U, 7U, 8U, 9U, and 11U divisions. They had exceptional commissioners this year whose contributions were vital to a smooth season. All divisions saw robust numbers this year. New initiatives included a Mosquito MSET program offering extra practices to develop players' skills. This was supported by our technical director Todd Boulanger. Another modification this year that we are considering is to change the game play of 9U to provide more innings pitched by players to better facilitate their development at this level.

b. Director 2 (13-18U) – Derek Giesbrecht – Oversees the 13U, 15U, 18U and Challenger Divisions. He also serves on the coach selection and appeals committee. Some highlights for the upcoming season: Launching a 15U AAA program for the first time in several years and continuing the 13U AAA and AA programs, building on last year's success, with the 13AAA team winning a National Championship and the 13U AA team winning Provincials

and Western Canada Titles. Both our 15U and 13U program will be running winter training for players looking to play on the single season teams. These sessions will be run by our Technical Director Todd Boulanger who will be a part of the tryout/evaluation process for those teams as well.

c. Director 3 (Fields and Equipment – Joe Meleg (Interim)) This position is supported by three volunteers: Himself, Hoyt Deglan, Jenni Riou Key updates include: Continued replacement of older equipment and field tools to maintain quality, ensuring ample equipment and balls to allow coaches more time for skill-building and enjoyment, ongoing collaboration with the city to improve Abbotsford baseball fields. Upcoming initiatives: Implement guidelines for team managers and coaches to report supply issues early to avoid shortages. Encourage coaches to reach out if parents need guidance on field setup and takedown, enabling coaches to focus on training players effectively.

d. Director 4 (Sponsorship – Brad Rosse – Was a memorable “Banner” year, celebrating both championship wins and team camaraderie. Brad was responsible for sponsorship and business development, highlighted the success in securing full sponsorships for the Mid-Summer Classic Tournaments, with major support for Abbotsford Firefighters, Paz Fuels, and Woodtone building products. Numerous individual team sponsorships further reduced costs for families, playing a vital role in the club’s success. Plans for 2025 include pursuing corporate sponsorship and gaming grants for equipment and field maintenance, remodelling batting cages and McMillan Park, and exploring signage opportunities with the city.

e. Director 5 (Risk Management) – Lauren Meinen – Has been serving in this role for over a year, overseeing key safety and compliance responsibilities. Achievements include updating all volunteer criminal record checks and transition to a new, user-friendly CRC system. Lauren also manages liability waivers, ensures first aid kits and ice packs are available and restocked and all fields, and supports event safety for the Mid-Summer Classic tournament. After passing on the registrar role last year Lauren has been working closely with the new registrar to ensure a smooth transition.

6. Update on Challenger Baseball – Tim Hall

Challenger baseball is a division of Abbotsford minor baseball. Anyone from age 2 – Adults can play and this is for people with cognitive and physical disabilities. We need the help of “buddies” to make this run so challengers is extremely grateful for the parents, volunteers and Abbotsford baseball players that come and help. There is no fee to play as they get sponsorship from Jay’s cares for kids.

7. Update on Umpires – Jim Van Meer / Melissa Dahlen –

We have a great umpire base. The association pays for umpire training to encourage young umpires. Because we have had so many umpires this year, we were able to have umpires for 9U. If you have young kids in 11U – 13U encourage them to sign up, it is a good way to get involved and have a better understanding of the game.

8. General Business:

a. Highlights of the 2024 season

i. Championship banners – Multiple championships and banners were won across the divisions from 11U-15U

ii. Mid-Summer Classic Tournament

iii. 5U Blast ball - Started up for the first time and was a huge success. We had 56 kids sign up.

b. Outlook for 2025 Season

i. Focus is on Development and Growth (Player + Coaches)

This year we will be doing some significant winter training for 13U & 15U for those players wanting to try out for a rep team.

ii. Registration Opening sooner – November 1

iii. This year we will have a coach's banquet before the season starts to kick off the season, teach the coaches how to properly run a team and the expectations. This year we will be hosting it at the beginning of March.

iv. This year we would also like to partner with local business such as HIT house.

c. Need for Volunteers

i. Thank for the volunteers that have stepped up.

ii. Webmaster / Marketing / PR / Special Events

iii. Scheduling Coordinator

iv. Tournaments

v. Uniforms

9. Election of Officers:

a. President – Rob Brandsma (incumbent)

Motion: To move Rob Brandsma into the president position. Approved: Voted in by acclamation

b. 2nd Vice President – Brad Nedimovich (incumbent)

Motion: To approve Brad Nedimovich as 2nd Vice President: Voted in by acclamation

c. Treasurer – Mike Pratt (Outgoing) – Stephanie Deglan (Nominee)

Motion: To approve Stephanie Deglan as Treasurer: Voted in by acclamation

d. Director 1 – Colin Dawes (incumbent)

Motion: To approve Colin Dawes as Director 1: Voted in by acclamation

e. Director 3 – Joe Meleg (incumbent)

Motion: to approve Joe Meleg as Director 3: Voted in by acclamation

10. Questions & Answers

Is it recorded where the sponsor money that collected where it is allocated? Yes, it is recorded in the minutes when it is discussed in a board meeting.

It was noted that we will have 2 AA teams how is this decided? We follow the guidelines from BC Minor that allows to have more than 1 AA team. Evaluations will determine whether or not we will have 2 AA teams.

If 8U and 9U numbers stay low can we move 9U back to grant (instead of little delair)? Yes, we are looking at this as well as having the city improve little delair but it is something that is still in discussion. Auguston school field is not ideal as it takes a lot of field prep due to being used daily during school hours.

Is there a possibility to have summer tryouts done sooner? Yes, we have a plan to bump of the tryouts a little bit sooner as it will help with uniform ordering and make it less stressful.

What talks are we in with the city for better fields? In the next few months there will be different focus groups talking with the city on how we can improve city fields.

Where are we in the process of hiring a 15U AAA coach? We are reviewing applications this coming weekend. We have been delayed a bit because we had to wait for cardinals to announce the team first.

11. Prize Draw

Next AGM – On or before October 28th 2025

Adjournment 9:02 PM

1st, Joe Meleg, 2nd Chelsey Iwana