

The 2017 NCBL Year End Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Nepean Sportsplex – Hall F

Teams Absent (6): Athletics, Expos, Mavericks, Outlaws, Panthers, Ponies

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 11:07am.

2. Confirmation of Teams Added in 2017 from Probationary to Full Status – The Winchester Heat and Naturals were both promoted to full status members of the NCBL.

(moved by Bandits, seconded by Battalion, **carried**)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – The minutes of the NCBL Kick-Off Meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017 were approved without change.

(moved by NCBL Secretary Bond, seconded by Capitals, **carried**)

4. Commissioner's Report on 2017 – The official 2017 Commissioner's Report was attached in the handout package. Bill Beelen read some of the highlights:

- For the first time we had boxscores from all games, hence all leaderboards had all teams represented. Thanks to Joe Beelen for setting it up and thanks to all teams for making it work.
- The foul line painting program was once again a success, and will continue in 2018.
- Umpire coverage in 2017 was perfect; with additional thanks to Jean Lazure and Neal Phadnis who are retiring from their leadership positions.
- Banquet attendance at 137 was the 4th highest in 11 years, and we had a \$750 surplus.
- Overall budget situation was well into the black, largely due to the fields being closed until mid-May.

5. Report from Umpires – In his final act as Head Umpire, Jean Lazure prepared a 14-page, single-spaced, double-sided, report recapping his 5-year tenure in the position. A few highlights:

- 2017 was a rebuilding year for the umpire corps; rookies had to (and did) step up to the challenge, and hopefully the loss in quality wasn't significant.
- Chris Hart and Braden McGinnis received individual shoutouts for their 2017 umpiring contributions.
- From 2013 to the present, the umpire leadership accomplished just about all of their long-term goals including: being part of the NCBL, with an increased level of professionalism, accountability, and appearance.
- The umpire supervisory program is still a work-in-progress.
- Jean suggested we find out what turns Mark Keeping on, and give him whatever he wants so he'll stick around long-term.
- Jean fully endorsed Maxime Leroux and Nick Ianiero as successors to himself and Neal.
- Amongst the list of people thanked in the final goodbyes was Phil Taylor.

6. Election of Umpire Officers for 2018 – Maxime Leroux (Head Umpire), Nick Ianiero (Deputy Head Umpire) and Mark Keeping (Assignor) were voted into their respective positions effective immediately:

(moved by Jean Lazure, seconded by Cubs, **carried**)

7. The Unofficial Team Intentions for 2018 – To get a general idea of the 2018 tier structure, teams were asked where they stand as of this meeting.

- No team believes they are folding, meaning at best there is only room for out of town teams to join the league *if* they have their own field and umpires. A group from Embrun may fit this criteria.
- The Winchester Sox are unsure if they will fight their automatic move down to Tier 2.
- Marc Sports will not fight their automatic move up to Tier 1.
- The Cornwall River Rats will make a pitch to move up to Tier 1.
- The SweatSox are unsure if they will fight their automatic move down to Tier 3.
- The Braves might make a pitch to move down to Tier 3.
- The Red Sox are unsure if they will fight their automatic move up to Tier 2.
- The Bombers are unsure if they will fight their automatic move down to Tier 4.
- Team Cuba will not fight their automatic move up to Tier 3.

8. Umpire Recruitment – Mark Keeping suggested that managers gauge the interest of their players on signing up as umpires, even if it's only to do bases a couple times a year. There is no limit to the umpire roster so there's plenty of room, and there would be a clinic before the season for training purposes. Please contact Mark Keeping for more information.

9. Next Meeting – The 2018 NCBL Annual Winter Meeting will be scheduled in the late-February, early-March range.

10. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:44am.