



Guelph Minor Hockey Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

**June 22, 2023 at 7:00pm at
University of Guelph**

Board members present: Chris Ste. Croix, Diane Young, Kim Salmon, David Belliveau, Jamie Baggio, Kathleen McColm, Ted Annis, Cynthia Van Hellemond, Erin Appleby, Bryan Gillmore, Lucas Kusiak, Steve Van Dam

1. Call to order

Acknowledged National Indigenous Day

Land acknowledgement by Chris Ste. Croix

2. Appointment of Scrutineer for AGM

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to appoint Bryan Smith and Rhonda Ghatto as scrutineers for the 2023 GMHA AGM. Second by Kim Salmon. Motion carried.

3. Review of Voting Procedures

Vote by raising hand in favor, opposed or abstention.

4. Approve 2023 AGM agenda

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to approve the 2023 AGM agenda as presented. Second by Jamie Baggio. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to call the 2023 GMHA AGM meeting to order at 7:02pm. Second by Cynthia Van Hellemond. Motion carried.

5. Approve 2022 AGM minutes

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to approve the 2022 GMHA AGM minutes as presented. Second by Ted Annis. Motion carried.

6. Welcome

Chris Ste. Croix introduced all the 2022-23 board members.

- Chris Ste-Croix – Acting President
- Diane Young– Acting Vice President
- Kim Salmon – Treasurer

- Kathleen McColm – Secretary
- Jamie Baggio – Director of House League Hockey
- Dave Belliveau – Director of Rep AAA
- Alex Gruevski– Director of Rep AA, A, AE, & MD
- Ted Annis – Director of Development
- Cynthia Van Hellemond – Director of Risk Management
- Bryan Gillmore– Director of Communications
- Lucas Kusiak – Director of Sponsorship
- Roy Schaefer- Director at Large
- Erin Appleby – Director at Large
- Steve Van Dam – Director at Large

7. End of Season Report

Chris Ste. Croix reviewed slides of Powerpoint presentation.

House League (HL):

- Held skills competition and tournament for SD program
- SD program moved to late morning
- Success of select team created a need for an extra BB team for next year
- Average 40 kids at each age group attended select tryouts
- Hosted pre-season and mid-season coaches meetings
- Started generating Convenor, HL, and Select Handbooks
- Created grading system for HL Evaluations
- Created a disciplinary tracking system

Championship Weekend

- Obtained \$7,500 sponsorship for the weekend
- SD: Skills competition and day of games
- Championship Sunday on Gold Rink
- Pizza parties were provided for all teams
- Alumni medals for graduating players
- U18 Skills Competition

Goals for Next Season

- Continue to improve HL Championship Weekend
- Completion of Handbooks
- Development of Coaching Guidelines and Training
- Increasing Development Opportunities

Representative Programs

- Spring Tryouts for all age groups

- Teams selected in spring can begin sanctioned activities August 28
- Tournaments may begin on 22 Sept
- Regular Season to begin on 2 Oct
- All teams will be engaged in meaningful competition until March 24

AAA Summary

- Eight teams competing
- Biweekly development sessions
- U15AAA made it OMHA's
- Seven of Eight teams will have non-parent coaches for next season
- We welcome Ryan Spiegelhalter and Russell Kennedy as coaches
- SCTA is merging with Eastern AAA for a new league under the OMHA
- No March Break Blackout

Year in Review AA-BB

- GMHA had a highly successful season in TCMHL
- Overall AA Record 111-94-35
- Overall A Record 93-92-27
- Overall BB Record 118-87-35
- 23 Teams entered in TCMHL in 2022-23
- 13 teams finished regular season with a top 5 finish
- 8 teams finished in the top 3
- 4 Tri-County Champions
 - o U13 Harrison (BB)
 - o U15 Bowen (AA)
 - o U15 Smith (A)
 - o U16 Harrison (BB)

Proposed TCMHL 2023-24 Season

- TCMHL moving to a 26-game regular season schedule ending in early February
- No March break blackout
- Playoffs to be 8-12 round robin games with a 1 game semifinal and 1 game final
- BB level being moved to non-contact from U14 and above
- High level of focus on seeding teams at the appropriate level before the season begins to avoid mid-season reseeding

University of Guelph Partnership Agreement

- Renewed for a five-year commitment
- All members of GMHA will be known as Jr. Gryphons
- Reduced ice costs
- Meeting rooms at no cost
- Priority ice use for GMHA tryouts
- ADP Program Delivery
- Coach Development Series

- Dryland Program Offering
- Right to sell rink board spaces in red rink (up to seven)
- Jr. Gryphon Day
- Support to PowerPlay Tournament

New Jersey and Apparel Supplier (All Team Sports)

- We requested proposals from six different UoG approved vendors
- We received proposals from three of them
- We developed evaluation criteria
- A committee (seven board members) blindly reviewed all proposals using based on the criteria
- All Teams had the most total points. They have large stock and do embroidery on site.

Power Play tournament is back.

Mitch Lortie will continue to run the tournament for the next 5 years with support from the University.

Development Report

September 2022

- Organized U10 - U13 rep tryouts for 2022-2023 Season
- Provided U8/U9 ADP with "Prep Skates"
- Completed U8/U9 ADP Player Evaluations

April 2023

- Organized U10 - U16 rep tryouts for 2023-2024 Season
- Offered Pre-Tryout Skills Development Sessions (140 players x 4 skates).
- Offered Pre-Tryout Checking Clinics (for players entering U14 and body checking).

The development team was part of planning, oversight and coach support for tryout process.

The development staff supported player selection for 29 rep teams.

All rep teams had independent evaluators.

On-Ice Player Development – Rep Teams

- Provided 390 hours of skills coaching to U10 through U16 age groups.
- Implemented shared ice format using skills stations and Small Area Games.
- Prepared practice plans and shared with coaches in advance.
- Start of skills development program was delayed 2 weeks due to GMHA scheduling challenges.

On-Ice Player Development - U8/U9 ADP Program

- Provided 370+ coaching hours of skills instruction for U8/U9 ADP players.
- Provided 60 hours of power skating instruction.
- 2 teams at U8 (Oakville & Burlington only other associations with 2 teams)
- 3 teams at U9 (Oakville & Burlington only other associations with 3 teams)
- Additional spots were offered as optional skills training for other U8/U9 players.

OHF (Ontario Hockey Federation) recognized GMHA's ADP Program as the example for associations to follow at U8 and U9 ages.

There were a number of player and coach webinars provided.

First Shift program partnered with Bauer. This is a 6-week program to introduce new players to ice hockey. There were 45 participants from Guelph and surrounding area. The program was staffed and operated by GMHA volunteer coaches and players.

Player Development Goals for Next Season

Goaltender Development

- Build out of program.
- To include instruction, resources, and subject matter expertise.

Continue Proactive Approach to Scheduling

- Ice is consistently tight every year – a "scarce" resource in Guelph.
- Continue to implement efficient scheduling of skills development (in cooperation with all programs), to make best use of resources.

Continued Evolution and Growth of U8/U9 ADP Programs

- Expansion of access to programs based on desire (as opposed to skill).
- Partnership with University of Guelph for on-ice coaching.

GMHA had been looking to do interlock for HL but there were issues with scheduling. The goal is to get as many kids on the ice as possible.

Questions

How much ice sat vacant that we paid for this past season? Lot more this year than other years. There needs to be changes. This needs to be tracks. It is very frustrating that we turn back ice that we own.

Agree that this is an issue. We did not necessarily pay for all ice that was returned. Part of the issue is we don't know all the answers. This is something we need to improve on.

Ice times vary by age groups. Block of ice ends at 9pm. We need to be cognizant because too many games went over time. U16 AAA was pulled off the ice for one of their games.

Two months ago an ice scheduling committee was created to look at rectifying these issues. They will look at better use of ice and innovative ways to optimize use. It is our biggest expenditure.

8. Review of 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements

Chris reviewed the audited financial statements for 2021-22. Deficit of \$19,000.

The reasons for the deficit:

- GMHA provided refunds to families during the COVID shut down. Total of \$180,418 in refunds were processed for AAA, AA, A, AE, Select & ADP programs. Skills Development and House League received everything budgeted thus no refunds were required,
- There was \$10,000 extra coaching clinics above budget.
- The U of G dressing room total costs to the association were \$10,000 and not \$5,000 as budgeted in previous years.
- Development Fee - \$4,000. An invoice for development fees related to the prior season had not been submitted previously or accounted for in the proper season
- OMHA Tournaments - \$11,000. We saw an increase in the number teams who made it through to the OMHA finals this year.
- Ice Rental Costs - \$11,000. An invoice from the prior season was not accounted for properly in the prior year.
- Cheque Fraud - \$27,800. A cheque issued to the University was recently determined to have been altered and cashed by a different party in Montreal. We are working with the bank to find out if we have any recourse to receive these funds back. We have also been in working with the Montreal and Guelph police services.

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to approve 2021-22 audited financial statements. Second by Erin Appleby. Motion carried.

9. Review of 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements

Chris Ste. Croix reviewed revenues.

PowerPlay tournament returned after a 2-year hiatus. Budgeted net income from PowerPlay was \$29,000 but the actual net income from PowerPlay was \$35,425.

There were no shutdowns during the 2022/23 season as compared to the prior season.

Increased ice rental and equipment costs were partially offset by increased registration numbers and decreased costs for player development vs. originally budgeted.

No questions.

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to approve the 2022-23 audited financial statements. Second by Kim Salmon. Motion carried.

10. Presentation of Preliminary Budget for 2023-24 season

We are waiting on direction OMHA, SCTA & Tri-County on the actual start dates and length of season in order to incorporate these details into the overall budget.

The following changes over last season are being made to the budget:

- Increased non-parent coach honorariums at all levels of AAA and U18AA
- Removal of the cost of jerseys from the rep team fees
- 8-10% increase in the cost of officials (refs & timekeepers)
- Addition of U14 BB, U10 has BB team which is not typical
- OMHA AGM announced that all HL will have digital game sheets. GMHA will have to provide iPads.

Questions

What are the results expected with additional non-parent coaches?

Reason moved to more non-parent coaches as there is more stress involved at AAA level. GMHA chose best person for each position. We are expecting better results as non-parent have done more homework. At U10 GMHA does not typically bring in out of zone players. This will be a trial run. We have expectations. What is success? We expect them to be better prepared and we will hold them to that. We can pivot back. Parents will have a say. Struggle to attract Centre Wellington players, they generally play for Waterloo. We are hoping to give them a reason to come to Guelph.

BB – U14 makes sense. U10 never had BB team in past. Did not have enough kids last year.

Without the cost of jerseys as part of the rep fees what do you expect the fees to be?

Have not set up rep fees yet. About \$3500. Can reuse jerseys. There is an increase in referees. \$3500 is a guesstimate.

11. Appointment of Auditors for 2023-24

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to appoint BDO as auditors for the 2023-24 season. Second by Steve Van Dam. Motion carried. 1 absentation.

12. Election of New Board Members

The following candidates are acclaimed.

- a. Chris Ste-Croix - Vice President
- b. Jamie Baggio - Director of House League
- c. Alex Gruevski - Director of Rep Hockey AA-BB

Introduction of Candidates

- a. Nathalie Pearson – not present
- b. Justin Hendrikx. A local business owener with 3 kids. Wants to give back and help out.
- c. Kelly Irwin – It is my privelege to be here. My son has a passion for hockey. His love for the game has only deepend. I have been team manager for select and rep , convenor for HL past 7 years even when son moved to rep. I have organized many team events. This past season, found an ally in Jamie Baggio. Had an amazing HL experience, amazing final experience with year end tournament. There was sponsorship, food, swag and prizes, raffle tickets, t-shirt tosses and chocolate. The grand prize draw were tickets to Guelph Storm.
- d. Ben O'Hara – Have lived in Guelph for 15 years. Have experience running hockey programs in the arctic, which was an incredible experience. One child in HL and and one in rep. Son is a goalie and support additional skills development and program for goalies. Coached last year in HL. Love hockey and want to give back, to help build hockey in Guelph.
- e. Ted Annis – I am the president of a company that focuses problem solving and organizational improvement. I have experience playing at NCAA and coaching at the AAA level. For 7 years, I was the owner hockey program in New Jersey. Running hockey organization has been both my day job and extracurricular. I've been on the board for the last two years. As director of development I have improved the programs for the younger age groups and we have seen so much improvement. Our ADP program is considered the gold standard by the OHF. I would like to continue to contribute.
- f. Andrew Coutts – I have been a Guelph resident for 30 years. 3 children all participate in GMHA. I have been a coach for almost 7 years. I would like to join to make a positive impact by volunteering time and expertise. Also involved in youth rugby many similarities, most important is to have fun. I believe there are some unique opportunities for collaborating that extend beyond sports arenas.
- g. Chad Mitchell – 4 kids – all part of GMHA. Twin dad, and dad with a kid with physical disabilities. 9 years HL convenor. Last year I was the recipient of the Berry award. I am very active in the community. I have been on the board for GMBA. Important to for coaches to keep kids in the centre of what they do. I want to drive accountability and have more representation of HL.
- h. Shawn McConkey – not present
- i. Mathew Wilson – not present, played video.
Out of town for work. I have history of professional experience in the non-profit sector. Dad of 2 kids. Involved HL and rep levels. I've been a trainor and coach. I want to pass on the love of game to my son and his team mates. I support growth and development of your kids.

- j. Mike Gourlay – not present, played video.
I am a lifelong hockey player. I have 3 kids. I have been a member of various board across different sectors. I am a CPA and the chief financial officer at St. Mary's Hospital. I believe in excellent governance. Concerned about toxic hockey culture and want to help improve the culture.

13.Awards

- a. Representative Coach of the Year – Dane Horvat
Highest parent evaluations last two years. His team qualified OMHAs the last two years. He set high bar for team. Role model for all players and has mentored many new coaches.
- b. House League Coach of the Year – Jeremy Cooney
Very passionate and ensures kids are having fun on the ice. Excellent parent comments. He does a lot of extras to ensure everyone is part of the team.
- c. William & Reginald Berry Honour Award – Kelly Irwin
Kelly has been a convenor for a long time (7 Years). She put is significant effort put towards HL Championship weekend. She puts kids first in all decisions.
- d. Ron & Frank Crabtree Executive of the Year Award – Jamie Baggio
Would like to thank Jamie for her role as Director of HL for our association over the past year. She has contributed 100s of hours to our association as a volunteer on our board. She has spent countless hours making the HL Program more enjoyable for our kids. She has improved collaboration with all the convenors and created a more equitable team selection process. She has also increased sponsorship money for HL and spearheaded and very successful Championship Weekend.
- e. President's Award – Clarke Sneddon
This award is presented annually. He started coaching over a decade ago. He has 3 children and has coached at all levels and has won multiple tournaments. In his last season of coaching his team (2022) he has won multiple tournaments and won the Tri-County Championships. Lost in the OMHA Finals and was the 2nd ranked team in Ontario. He is well respected by members of the board and development team. Apart from coaching, Clarke also served a two-year term on the GMHA board and was part of a number of initiatives. Most importantly, Clarke has been a role model for the players and person they respected and developed under.
- f. Community Partner Award – Two recipients, Scott Findlay and Gurinder Saini
Scott has sponsored over a dozen teams always willing to help out.
Gurinder owns a local franchise Domino's pizza, is a proud supporter of GMHA and provided pizza party for all HL and SD teams.

Based on voting results the following candidates have been elected:

- Ben O'Hara
- Ted Annis

- Kelly
- Mike
- Chad Mitchell

Special thanks to 4 board members whose terms have ended. Diane Young, Kathleen McColm, Cynthia Van Hellemond and Roy Schaefer who is not present today. Thanks for all your time and challenging the status quo. Appreciate all your work.

Closing statements

Focus on the next season will be on transparency, communication, fairness, teamwork and stability. With the pandemic there were lots of changes and not always for the best. We want to create a stable platform, developing teams year over year, continue to move forward. We want to be the model organization for OMHA. During a call with the OMHA, they applauded GMHA for all the work in the past two years. During the summer we will be engaged with the University of Guelph to create a strategic plan. Please take the time participate in interview and fill out survey to help set direction.

14. Destruction of Ballots

15. Adjournment

Motion by Chris Ste. Croix to adjourn the 2023 AGM at 8:28pm. Second by Steve Van Dam. Motion carried.