



Glen Cairn Ladies' Softball League
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
Buster's Bar and Grill (420 Hazeldean Road)
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Lane Bourbonnière

Executives Present:

President	Lisa Prentiss
Vice-President	Aline Lafrance / MP (Tiny) Tremblay
Secretary	Lane Bourbonnière
Treasurer	Liz Warren
Statistician	Jaime Carruthers

Members Present:

Bani Ahara	Cathy Kelly
Taylor Albert	Rosanne MacMillan
Christine Anderson	Laura May
Karen Bailey	Mandy Moskal
Dana Bourbonnière	Alexis Reid
Terri Cheeseman	Erika Schom
Delaney Ewing	Hannah Sullivan
Sierra Emmerson	Jodi Sullivan
Cathy Kelly	Pam Stuart
Pina Kelly	Linda Wilson
Kim Kirby	Stephanie (Steph) Wilson

1. Welcoming and Ground Rules

Aline Lafrance, the *outgoing Vice-President*, started the meeting at 7:05 PM and welcomed all attendees. It was mentioned that Kim Bond sends her regrets, as she is under the weather and could not attend tonight's AGM. Aline provided an overview of the agenda so all attendees were aware of the conversations being held this evening.

Aline continued to review the ground rules for the AGM. She wanted to reiterate that we are all expected to converse respectfully. All attendees agreed to the rules.

2. Departing Executives

- Kim Bond, *2022-2024 President*
- Aline Lafrance, *2022-2024 Vice-President*
- Jen Quinn, *Captain (multiple years)*
- Kim Kirby, *Captain (multiple years)*
- Robin Gyimesi, *Captain (multiple years)*

3. 2025 Executives

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| • Lisa Prentiss, <i>2024-2026 President</i> | • Alexis Reid, <i>Captain</i> |
| • MP (Tiny) Tremblay, <i>2024-2026 Vice-President</i> | • Cat Ladouceur, <i>Captain</i> |
| • Liz Warren, <i>2023-2025 Treasurer</i> | • Christine Anderson, <i>Captain</i> |
| • Jaime Carruthers, <i>2023-2025 Statistician</i> | • Hayley Bennett, <i>Captain</i> |
| • Lane Bourbonnière, <i>2023-2025 Secretary</i> | • Katie Flansbury, <i>Captain</i> |
| | • Mandy Moskal, <i>Captain</i> |
| | • Steph Wilson, <i>Captain</i> |
| | • Taylor Albert, <i>Captain</i> |

4. Review of Minutes from AGM 2022

Aline encouraged people to review the 2023 AGM minutes by scanning the QR code made available in the PowerPoint or by following along with the minutes on the screen.

Approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes

Moved by: Christine Anderson

Seconded by: Steph Wilson

5. Finance Report

Liz Warren, *Treasurer*, went through the 2024 revenues and expenses for the league. It was understood that if the Banquet Committee did not raise any money, we would break even for the year. However, the Banquet Committee was able to raise funds for the event. Currently, there is \$5,047 sitting in the league bank account before paying expenses for the banquet.

Tiny Tremblay had inquired about league fee increases for next year. Liz is unsure about this, as it is an executive decision. We also need to have a better understanding of how successful the fundraising efforts are in the off-season.

Liz also noted that we hadn't received funds from supporting the U20 Men's Softball tournament in August, so we should have extra funds coming in from that as well. Player refunds were similar to

previous years. Those who were refunded received money back from league fees but were not refunded for the Kanata Sports Club (KSC) membership fees.

6. Committee Reports

- o **Banquet Committee:** Christine Anderson provided the Banquet Committee report. So far, the committee has raised \$240 in a square fundraiser, \$320 in a wine pull fundraiser, and \$490 in a raffle fundraiser. Christine noted that we do not include banquet fees in original league prices as not everyone goes to the banquet, and then we overpay the caterers. If people cancel after the caterer is booked, they do not get their money back.

This year, 94 out of 104 members paid to go to the banquet, our biggest year yet. People can come on Saturday morning after 10 AM to decorate their team tables. Jen and Christine will have signs for the respective team tables.

All attendees must be at the sports club no later than 5:15 PM. There will be a Toonie Toss between 5-6 PM to win a big bottle of Grey Goose™ Vodka. A BBQ dinner, catered by the Grill Master, will be served at 6 PM. Each team needs to bring one (1) dessert for the event.

Awards and speeches will occur at 7 PM, and the year-end video will play at 7:30 PM. 10 Cent Wings (band) will play from 8-10 PM, and after, there will be a playlist to continue the dancing. Poutine will be served at 10:30 PM.

- o **Equipment Committee:** Liz Warren provided the Equipment Committee report. Liz provided an overview of equipment expenses that were needed for this season. There is talk about AY Jackson expanding the school building, meaning that the AY Field may no longer be accessible to us, as it will get removed. If this is not happening for a while, it is recommended that new bases are purchased for this field with a new equipment box so we do not need to share equipment with the mixed/male leagues. However, Liz will confirm the timeline before any purchases are made.

It is also recommended that new metal plugs be purchased for Jack Charron.

Captains also recommend balancing equipment bags this year so all teams have the same amount of equipment.

- o **Rules Committee:** Steph Wilson provided the Rules Committee report. This committee met every few weeks over the off-season to review the rules. They attempted to streamline the regular season, tournaments, and playoff rules. One of the major changes made was that the committee got rid of the rule where you can only call up a spare pitcher from your bracket. What this means is captains can ask anyone. They also removed that rule that spares in playoffs can only field. Now subs can field and bat in the playoffs.

Over the 2025 off-season, this committee will also look at the Constitution and update it.

- o **Recruitment Committee:** Steph Wilson provided the Recruitment Committee report. Recruitment has typically been running through the off-season. We tried to engage more potential players via social media this year.

- o **Fundraising Committee:** Kim Kirby provided the Fundraising Committee report. Euchre tournaments have typically been the most successful fundraisers for the league. However, the same thirty (30) or so people attend these events, which is great, but there needs to be more league participation. Fundraising also needs to start at the end of the season and go to the start of the next season. We also need to host fundraisers outside of the KSC too, to reach more people.

Sponsorship also goes hand in hand with fundraising. If we can get more sponsors for the league, that's less money the members need to donate on top of league fees. Kim will be stepping down from the Fundraising Committee for the next season, so someone needs to take this on.

- o **Tournament Committee:** Alexis Reid provided the Tournament Committee report. The May tournament went well. We were able to cut down a lot on pizza costs, making the switch to Papa John's. The September tournament was more difficult as we experienced a lot of rain. Jaime and many other league members came out on Saturday to help maintain the fields so the tournament could run smoothly on Sunday. The committee decided there would not be finals for the September tournament as we were encroaching on playoffs, and every team got a guaranteed three (3) games in.
- o **Playoff Committee:** Jaime Carruthers provided the Playoff Committee report. It seemed like a good move to move the Monday games to the Thursday following the September tournament weekend. It was noted that some people were not happy with the doubleheader if teams were playing in the "Loser Bracket", but double headers are quite common in other leagues when you are still playing this late in the season. It seemed as though playoffs also ran well with the two diamonds.

7. **President/Vice-President Updates**

Aline Lafrance noted that at the start of the season, there were a lot of rainouts so we appreciate all teams and their patience. Luckily, as the season progressed, there were less. This year, we played on holiday Mondays, but teams who played on the Monday of the May Long Weekend did not play on the Monday of the August long weekend, and vice versa. We also did not play on Canada Day Monday but did play on Tuesday and Thursday nights instead.

It was discussed that there needs to be more consistency in making decisions about calling a rainout. We can create guides to help support umpires and captains to make the call. If we cancel a game before 4 PM on the day of, we do not need to pay the ump. Even if one pitch is thrown and the game is called, the ump gets paid the full fee. If all parties show up, no one plays, and the game is still called, then the ump only receives 50% of the original game fee. When looking to call a rainout, the main concern is player safety. If it has been raining the whole day, but the field is okay to play, unless noted otherwise, teams should still be playing.

8. **Open Floor**

Alexis Reid noted that playoffs are tricky to navigate when teams who bring in subs bring in ringers. During the playoffs, the teams playing against each other should be their original team, with expectations. There should be a disadvantage to the team that cannot field a team. This is not to say we want teams to forfeit, but rather encourage players on the team to actually play, and all players should be playing similar amounts. Softball Canada says you can play with eight (8) people on the field.

Jodi Sullivan mentioned that they have been on the spare list for the past few seasons and have never been called. It seems the same spares get called to play for every game. To combat this, a WhatsApp group will be made with captains and the 2025 spare list, and all requests for spares can be sent through this channel. First come, first served.

Jodi also mentioned that we should look into having at least two (2) teammates volunteer during the season to support the implementation of committee tasks. For instance, the individual is not officially on the tournament committee, but during the tournament weekends, they volunteer at the raffle, etc.

Additionally, Jodi mentioned that the social media communication this year has been excellent. It was helpful to have weekly schedules put out, and the new website is easier to navigate.

Taylor Albert has been working with Kitchissippi to have them as a sponsor for the BBQ for tournaments. She apologizes that we didn't use them this year, but they will support us next year. They currently have been able to sponsor our league through non-monetary donations such as providing merch, gift cards, and cases of beer for different events, all free of charge. They are hoping for future tournaments to run a BBQ and beer tent, staffed and operated by Kitchissippi, and once they break even, all extra funds will be given to the league.

Taylor also noted that we should be doing more for sponsors. We should be providing them with some form of recognition. It was mentioned to give sponsors a plaque. It was also noted that someone could donate their jersey, have teammates sign it, and gift it to the sponsor in a shadow box to hang up in their location.

Additionally, Taylor wanted to note that we are still looking into merchandise for the league. She is working to produce GCLSL merch which we can hopefully sell during the off-season.

Delaney Ewing mentioned that during registration, where you can note if you want to be a spare or a scorekeeper, we should also have a section for those who are willing to serve as an assistant captain if the captain is ever missing from a game. This would mean they could help support the captain with building a lineup and be the official rep to talk to the umpires if needed for those respective games which allows for people to get experience in the captaincy role.

Delaney also noted it would be helpful for the league to talk to umpires about strike zones. GCLSL is not in regulation with pitch distance or ball size, creating more risk for pitchers. If we can talk to umpires at the beginning of the season and also have captains remind them of the importance of a wider strike zone, this can reduce the risk of injury.

Hannah Sullivan noted that typically at the beginning of the season, the strike zones are pretty generous, but as the season goes on, the strike zone gets quite small, which can also increase the risk of injury for pitchers.

Cathy Kelly mentioned that it would be good to inform Mark (the ump contact) of any conflict of interest between the umpire and players. For instance, no umpire should call a game when a loved one is playing. Jaime Carruthers said they will add the umpire's name on the game schedule so we can all be aware.

Liz Warren noted that umpires are inspecting bats. Players are not allowed to use slow-pitch bats in the league. Last season, one of the bats for Kirby's team broke, and another was a slow-pitch bat, so they need to make sure new bats are given to the new captain in charge of this equipment. Delaney Ewing recommended we check out Marketplaces for gently used bats to save costs.

Liz also mentioned that currently, Softball Canada requires all pitchers under 18 to wear a mask. This rule may also be expanded to adults as well. We will update the league if this happens.

Additionally, Liz wanted to address the league not having an age cut-off for any players. People can decide for themselves when they want to hang up the cleats. However, we want to remind people that safety is always the number one priority.

Delaney also mentioned that it would be awesome to do a fundraising clinic where pitchers and catchers could meet and work together to learn how to call a game. Both Jaime and Delaney offered to donate their time to run a clinic to help people learn more about these positions.

Steph Wilson recommended we create a Code of Conduct document as an official document posted on the website. There could also be a procedures/guideline document about dealing with rain delays, behaviour, etc.

There was a group discussion about looking at players missing games throughout the season. Typically, captains have a general idea of why people are missing games. It is up to the captains to bring forward any questionable players who may only be waiting around to play in the finals or tournaments. The league wants to make sure that all players are not taking up spots which could be filled by others who want to play. This should be looked at case-by-case, but it was also noted that some people have to miss more games than others depending on the years (illness, taking care of loved ones, going to school, etc.), so this should be a group decision and not an individual one if action is recommended.

It was also recommended signup sheets be passed around at the banquet so people can sign up to work with different committees next year.

Delaney and other GCLSL members recommended creating a WhatsApp group for captains, pitchers and catchers to sub for games.

Participants at the AGM had their names put into a draw to see who would win a 50% off league fee for the 2025 season, and Pam Stuart won.

9. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.