



Meeting of April 16, 2005

Kings Valley Wesleyan Church

Teams represented:

Fundamental Baptist, Kennebecasis Baptist, Kings Valley Wesleyan, Kings Way Assembly,
Main Street Baptist, Rothesay Baptist, Saint John Vineyard, St. James the Less

Teams absent:

Forest Hills, North Side Assembly, Seaview

League Executive present:

Vance Crozier (president)
Eric Sabean (vice president)
John Greer (umpire coordinator)
Charlie Andrews (treasurer)

2005 Teams...

Saint John Vineyard, Seaview, Rothesay Baptist, Kings Valley Wesleyan, Kings Way Assembly, Kenebecasis Baptist and Main Street Baptist will be fielding teams this year. Fundamental Baptist will also be fielding at least one team, with the possibility of a second team entirely from their own church, or a split squad with another church - John Landry to confirm as soon as possible.

North Side Assembly, Forest Hills Baptist and St. James the Less do not have enough players to field their own teams this year. Larry Taylor has offered to organize these three churches into one team.

Salvation Army's contact will not return to Saint John until April 25th. At this point, for budgeting, we are assuming they have no team. If this changes, league fees and the schedule will be changed accordingly. Vance Crozier to follow up on this matter.

2005 Financial notes...

Costs for fields, umpires, balls and trophy engraving will be the same as last year's cost. We will be adding the cost of mats this year - one mat per team at \$40 each. Roughly \$200 is still due to the league from Main Street Baptist, \$88 of which is due to Shawn Titus.

City of Saint John	\$6000
Umpires	\$3800
Balls	\$965
Mats	\$400
Bank service charges	\$20

(exact financial data was presented to those in attendance by Charlie Andrews)

Final cost based on 9 teams is \$1300.

The Schedule...

As noted last meeting, the season will start on Friday, May 20 and end Friday, September 2. The All Star Game will be held from 6-9 on Monday, June 27 with a regular scheduled game to follow in the late slot. Last year's scheduling of regular season games until mid-August and a compressed playoff was well-received, and will be applied this year also. A full Saturday in mid-August at Shamrock will be requested from the City - if this is possible all teams will be involved in the first round of the playoffs. If a Saturday is not available, the top 6 teams will be involved in the playoffs. Unused fields during the playoffs will be used, *if possible*, by non playoff teams.

Seaview has requested, and been granted, no Monday games during the regular season due to the distance their players need to drive on game nights. As with last season, they will play in back-to-back slots as needed to make up for those games. Seaview prefers these back-to-back nights to occur in June or late August to avoid time periods when some of their players are unavailable.

If you know that your team will not be available for a Monday or Friday, *please advise the executive immediately*. We will try to accommodate these nights as best as we can.

Main Street mentioned that last year's schedule was heavy on late Mondays. Makeup games due to rainouts can make this difficult, but every effort will be made to keep a balanced schedule.

The issue of dropping late Monday time slots altogether if we lost a team was discussed, but passed on for the time being as the per team cost savings was negligible. Jeff Reynolds contacted the Town of Quispamsis concerning field availability and costs in the valley. The only availability at this time is Meenan's Cove, 6-9pm on Fridays at a cost of \$450 for the season. Although the cost & location are tempting, the additional Friday slot would spread the umpires too thin. The league's name is on the field for the time being - we can revisit this next year.

Umpires...

Last meeting's decision concerning the number of umpires was voted on and reversed. It was decided that having only one umpire would put an unfair amount of pressure on a single umpire. The one-umpire system also has the potential to discourage new umpires from joining the ranks. As previously decided, John Greer and Larry Taylor will still be holding two training days on the first two Saturdays in May. Umpires and a team rep will be expected to attend at least one of these days. Many thanks to John & Larry! Date & time to be confirmed as soon as possible.

Bats...

The bat issue was also revisited during this meeting. The bat-sharing and league-purchased bat decisions were reversed on a vote, for both logistical and “free market” reasons. It was decided that the league would adhere to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) standards for bat approval, with the added banning of any titanium bats. Any non-approved bats currently in circulation can be used for the 2005 season, but not 2006. The league will continue to monitor ASA bat approvals & bans and the most recent list will be available on the league website. Use of an illegal bat will be dealt with in the following manner...

The Illegal bat call comes from an appeal similar to a baserunner leaving a base too soon after a fly ball out. An appeal must be made by the manager before the next legal or illegal pitch and before all defensive players have left fair territory. Rule 7 Sec 8 Article b, c, & d states the batter is out and ejected from the game if found with an altered or illegal bat. All advances by runners as a result of batted ball is nullified. Altered or illegal bat is removed from the game. If this incident is repeated with another bat then not only the player, but the manager is ejected for attempting to make a travesty of the game.

The umpire should, at the first time of discovering an illegal or altered bat, inspect all bats so that it does not occur again.

Run-limiting measures...

Last year's system of a seven run-per-inning limit for the first five innings, open innings afterwards and a 15-run mercy rule will continue with one addition. The “Plus two” homerun rule will be used this year. A team can only hit 2 more home runs than its opponent at any point during the game. For example, if team A hits two home runs in the first inning, they can't hit any more that inning. In the bottom of the inning, team B can hit no more than four home runs. A home run above the +2 limit will result in a strike against the batter. The adoption of this rule will counter the combination of high-tech bats and relatively small fields that we play on.

Vision Statement...

Shawn Titus tabled a league Vision Statement. This document was read aloud for comments and after any revisions will be officially adopted by the league and incorporated into the website content.

League website...

Although not discussed at the meeting, a new league website has been in development and is now active. For the time being, it is being hosted by Geocities (free hosting & easily updated by several people...) and can be found here:

http://ca.geocities.com/sjcd_churchslowpitch/

Having our own domain name and a proper hosting agreement somewhere may be a possibility in the near future if the league decides it is useful enough to warrant the investment. More info on this opportunity to follow.