



2017

# Glebe Little League Annual General Meeting Minutes

Allan Martel  
Vice President  
11/24/2017

The Annual General Meeting of the Glebe Little League (GLL) was called to order at the Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre 225 Donald St, Ottawa ON at 19H30.

Attendees included: Graham Long; Allan Martel; Eric Torunski; William Barlow; Greg Thorpe; Nadra Khan; Natalie Goto; Christina Flavell; Paul Cavanaugh; James Zeni; Nick Sanders; John Pezacki; and Jason Parry.

The proposed Agenda for the Meeting was reviewed and approved.

The Minutes of the 2016 GLL AGM were approved subject to the modification of correcting the family name of Paul Cavanaugh inadvertently listed as Paul Villeneuve.

Allan Martel presented a summary review of the 2017 season. The season was successful on most fronts but there is room for improvement on umpire scheduling and on designing the appropriate playing structure for Rookies and lower skill level Minor players. The BoD will consider these matters in detail at its next meeting slated for December 13, 2017. The summary review document is attached to the Minutes as Attachment 1.

Eric Torunski presented three different reports:

1. Parent Satisfaction Survey – GLL received just under 60 responses with over 90% satisfaction ratings for the overall experience and for value for money. The detailed survey report is attached to these Minutes as Attachment 2.
2. Field Allocation Submission – A detailed explanation and justification of GLL 2018 field allocations was prepared and submitted to the City of Ottawa prior to the November 20, 2017 deadline. The document requests new fields (Manor Park) and highlights opportunities to improve now unusable fields within the GLL catchment area. The submission is attached to these Minutes as Attachment 3.
3. Safety – There were no serious injuries or cases of verbal or physical abuse during the 2017 season. Over 89% of Police Reference Checks for coaches and assistant coaches have either been completed or remain in process. At least one coach on each team in 2017 had a valid PRC. GLL will ensure 100% compliance for the 2018 season.

Greg Thorpe presented a Profit & Loss statement for the GLL between January 1, 2017 and the date of the AGM. He noted revenues near \$107,000 with expenses near \$ 105,000 for a net profit of about \$2,000. There is about \$7,000 in cash on hand providing needed cash flow through the start of the 2018 season. This document is attached to these Minutes labeled Attachment 4.

Allan Martel presented a Budget Expenses Forecast for the 2018 season including provision for new bats as per Little League requirements. He noted that the document takes a very conservative view of revenues and that 2018 should be a successful year financially with reserves estimated to be considerably higher than at the end of 2017. This document is attached to these Minutes labeled Attachment 5.

## Registration Numbers

Registration Tracker GLL 2017 - May 16, 2017																
Division	2016	2017	Difference	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	Annual	2016 Total	Target	Needed to	% of 2017	Current	Wait
	As At Analysis Date			New	return	% New	New	return	% New	2016	vs 2017 Now	2017	Make Target	Target	CAP	LIST
T-Ball	18	42	24	16	2	89%	35	5	88%	22	20	48	6	88%	50	18
Rookie	65	63	-2	51	21	71%	45	18	71%	73	-10	76	13	83%	76	24
Minor	68	96	28	37	38	49%	40	48	45%	70	26	96	0	100%	100	12
Major	67	94	27	24	47	34%	22	74	23%	67	27	96	2	98%	100	12
Junior	48	49	1	11	43	20%	13	37	26%	50	-1	56	7	88%	56	12
Senior	15	22	7	2	15	12%	1	20	5%	16	6	24	2	92%	24	12
Big League	0	4	4	1	1	50%	1	6	14%	0	4	6	2	67%	6	12
Totals	281	370	89	142	167	46%	157	208	43%	298	72	402	32	92%	412	102

Registrations for 2017 were increased by about 32% over 2016 figures. We had increases in every Division except Rookies where numbers were roughly the same as the year earlier. We reached 92% of our marketing targets. About 70% of registrants came from Glebe & Centretown with the remaining 30% spread to the east including Gloucester.

For 2018 we expect similar increases in demand for player spots within the GLL. We are rapidly approaching limits to growth based on field availability but we are working on this issue – more later from Eric on this subject.

Gloucester is an area with strong growth potential. It will be targeted in our 2018 Marketing Campaign with the hope of building parallel T-Ball and Rookie programs in the East and West of our catchment area.

## Sponsorship

2017 saw a special effort launched to obtain sponsorships for the GLL. Results for the first year were impressive with almost \$ 7,000 in sponsorships received – some multi-year in character. We will expand our sponsorship efforts in 2018 through a sponsorship committee headed by Tom Elridge. Anyone interested in working with this group should speak to Tom after this meeting.

## Team Formation

GLL established a more rigorous methodology for Spring Ball team formation in 2017. The effort resulted in well-balanced teams using a combination of sort-outs data and coached inputs. For 2018, GLL plans to refine further the team allocation process.

Each season we receive dozens of requests to ~~have Player A play on Team C to be with Player C, players to be on the same team as~~ a friends or carpooling partners. We try to accommodate these insofar as team balance allows, but inevitably, we cannot accept all such requests. Please be understanding as a few volunteers (James Zeni, our Player Agent and Conveners) try to slot over 400 players on to 30 or so teams.

The other team formation issue that arises each year relates to which Division ("A", "B" or "C") or equivalent that your child is slotted into. The determination of placements within Divisions is accomplished by reference to scoring, in objective sort-out drills and coaches' inputs as collected in surveys. Every year there are parents who believe ~~(often fervently)~~ that their child has been under-rated and conveners and the Player Agent have to deal with ~~disgruntled clients~~ dissatisfied parents advocating on behalf of their child. This aspect of service within the GLL is by far the most difficult and your BoD asks that you register your concern, but that you accept the results as determined by the process.

For 2018, there will be no allowance for players to play up a level unless the teams formed at the higher level are missing players to the extent that a team cannot be formed. Players will be allowed to play down one level if they are new to baseball or if there is another safety-related reason for doing so. James Zeni will serve as Player Agent in 2018.

## Apparel

In 2017, ~~we did some things better than others and~~ apparel is one area where we hope to make considerable progress in 2018. Nadra Khan has agreed to lead this task for 2018 and will form a working group to do so.

In 2018 we will collect sizing information at registration thereby enabling us to make precise Spring Ball apparel orders as soon as teams are formed. Hopefully we will also have Sponsors lined up for each and every team in time for the apparel orders.

Similarly, uniforms for Travel Ball and Summer Ball teams will be ordered once teams are formed and we assess what uniforms we have available from previous years.

If you are interested in helping the Apparel Committee, please speak to Nadra after this meeting.

## Equipment

In 2017, GLL invested heavily in new player and training equipment (In excess of \$ 20,000). Nets, batting tees, catchers' equipment, bats and more were purchased as per coach and convener requirements.

For 2018, standards for most Little League bats are changing and GLL forecasts a spend of about \$6,000 to purchase compliant bats. We have accepted a quotation from Lacroix Sports for bats discounted at about 30% slated for March delivery. If any parents want to buy their child a new compliant bat, GLL is offering a one-time chance to purchase a bat as part of our bulk order. Please contact me unless we get a volunteer at this meeting to take on the role of Equipment manager.

GLL does not have a volunteer in the Equipment Manager position for 2018 and we are looking for a volunteer. I did the vast majority of this work in 2017 and can mentor anyone willing to step up for 2018. Do we have any volunteers?

# Umpires

In 2017 we experienced shortages of umpires on a consistent basis at the more senior Division levels. GLL trained about 30 young umpires last season but there remains a dearth of older, more experienced officials. We need to make major improvements in umpiring in 2018 and I am pleased to report that Dennis Leung has agreed to lead this charge for 2018 as he did in 2017.

For 2018 we expect to:

1. internalize the umpire scheduler role (formerly contracted out)
2. increase umpire fees commensurate with experience
3. train older umpires capable of umpiring Junior, Senior and Big League games
4. retrain our younger umpires to maintain a solid inventory of available officials

## Coach / Player Development

I am particularly pleased to report on our coach and player development initiatives in 2017. We hosted a coach training session taught by Tanner Watson that was very well received. Through Hugo Prud'homme, we received and viewed dozens of Internet-based player drills and practice techniques. We purchased, rented, and made use of enough training aids, practice balls, and pitching machines to operate a robust training program. We ran Spring Ball, Fall Ball and Winter Ball as seasons explicitly focused on player development.

Did it pay off? – You bet your bippy!!

Let's look at Summer Ball - Our Minors team made it to the District finals; Our Majors team made it to the District Finals; Our Juniors team made it to the Provincial ~~Finals~~ in Oakville; Our Seniors team made it to the ~~Regional Finals~~ Provincials. This is unprecedented success for the GLL and congratulations are due to all the Coaches and players who made this happen.

For 2018, our Coach and Player Development effort will be led by a triad – Tom Steffler, ~~his brother~~ [David Steffler](#) and James Allen. All three of these coaches have serious professional ~~ef-or~~ semi-professional

baseball backgrounds and have already demonstrated the skills and patience necessary to instruct boys, girls, and even teenagers. They are also very knowledgeable about training trainers and will form a great teaching team for coach development. Anyone interested in helping out with coach or player development should speak to a triad member after this meeting.

## Action Plan – Timeline - Milestones

We recognize that we ~~scrambled-were rushed~~ to accomplish many tasks in the 2017 season ~~because we always seemed to be about one month late~~. This was due, in part, to keeping registrations open through mid-May. We don't plan to do that again – Registrations for 2018 will close ~~in mid-April~~ or near April 1st to allow for an additional month of planning and we will make every effort to convince parents that this is a real deadline this year.

Unless we need a few players to round out teams ~~after mid~~-April, new applicants will be wait-listed or declined. As of our next BoD meeting, we will be building a time line for all activities with milestones included to keep us on track.

## Conveners Reports

- T-Ball
  - 4 coaches who were engaged, motivated and competent
  - Large increase in # of players
  - To improve: having enough players to run a program in Gloucester
- Rookie
  - Need a coaches' contract to have clear expectations
  - Under-resourced on fields and coaches
  - Coaches' training session: the parents who had expressed interest hadn't been invited to attend
  - Coaches need to go through the rules at the beginning of the season
  - Need full catching equipment
  - We should do sort-outs for Rookie next year
  - Some parents felt 4 hours a week was too much
  - Having a conveners best practices document would be useful
- Minor

- Fantastic spring league for mid-level talent (less so for lower or higher level kids)
  - Need to try to accommodate and ensure a great experience for kids with very little or no experience, and for those with a lot of experience
  - Summer league 3 teams – national rookie level
  - 96 kids ~~– shocked by # of parents putting kids on field who had never thrown a baseball~~
  - 6 really good coaches – need to get them in early and ~~tell them how to run it~~ provide them with resource/guidance
  - Proposal : Tier Minors.
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- Major
    - Had great support
    - Tiering worked
    - Bigger issue was player placement
    - Detailed written report was circulated with recommendations for next year
  
  - Junior
    - Spring = 2 A teams, 2 B teams
    - Umpiring issues
    - Deadlines for registration and everything else needs to happen earlier
    - Equipment went well
  
  - Senior
    - One team. One district. 22 kids registered for Spring.

## Executive Team

GLL ran without a robust BoD for several years. Last year a committed and talented team stepped up and has made amazing progress in just one year. My thanks to all who served and who continue to serve – I look forward to an even better year in 2018.