

MTAA General Membership Meeting Minutes January 23, 2012

Attendees: Wendy Button*, Chris Rear*, Kelli Miller*, Frank Pilat*, Kevin Button*, Don Raifsnider*, Jeff Bieber*, Danielle Sheipe*, Brad Coley, Cori Olmeda, Jen Wilson, Jenn Eberhart, Dawn Bornmann, Nicole Jankowski, Angela Krick*, Jason Bill, Jim Sheipe, Scott Yerger*, Joel Sharp, Matt Kochel, Tara Neel, Sheri Fulp* **(* Denotes Board of Directors)**

Meeting was called to order by Frank at 7:06pm

December minutes were reviewed and all approved

Treasurer's Report (given by Kelli Miller)

Kelli reported \$18,775.44 in the account and all outstanding bills are paid

Cheerleading Report (given by Commissioner Jenn Eberhart)

- Reading Express is inviting cheer squads around Berks to cheer at various home games this season. Each squad would cheer at one game for half the game. Each cheerleader would receive one ticket to the game. There are tryouts involved. Jenn and Nikki will look at getting more information but this is something we may have to think about for next year given the short notice.
- Since Shanna Wolf resigned as commissioner, Jenn and Nikki Stout (co-commissioners) will discuss whether they plan to stay on in the commissioner roles after basketball cheer is over and let the board know of their intentions.
- Basketball cheer is going well and there have been no complaints.

Girls Basketball Report (given by Commissioners Jen Wilson & Cori Olmeda)

- The High School girl's basketball team will hold a youth night on Friday, January 27th at their home game. Our girls basketball players can come to the game for \$1.00 and the teams/players will be introduced. Jen is going to talk to Kerry Ciatto to see if MTAA can set up a booth to sell raffle baskets and take additional baseball/softball registrations during the game. Kelli will man the booth if approved by Kerry.
- Some of our players were given the opportunity to be water girls for one of the High School games and they loved it.
- Overall, the season is going well.

Wrestling Report – No Commissioner present at meeting

Field Hockey Report (given by Commissioner Wendy Button)

- Nothing is happening with field hockey at this time

Football Report (given by Commissioner Chris Rear)

- Chris is checking to find out the number of times pads can be reconditioned until they need to be replaced.
- Chris and Jim Sheipe are going to go through the pads to see how many definitely need to be replaced. Chris got a price of approx. \$7200 to purchase 200 new pair
- Chris has been dealing with USA Football to get information to submit applications for a possible grant. He will try to have this information by the next meeting
- Football is also in need of new uniforms but they are concentrating on the pads and safety items first

Baseball Report (given by Commissioners Joel Sharp & Matt Kochel)

- The Coach Pitch rules have been amended by Joel & Matt and have been posted on the website. Some of the changes are that the kids will be pitching to each other unless they are really getting into “trouble”. Then the coach will come out. There will be no Tee at all. Basically, it will be more of a “mini-knee high”. This will give the boys who did coach pitch before some more advanced skills so they feel like they are progressing while not making it so drastic that the boys coming in for their first year can’t handle it.
- Joel is working on some ideas for Opening Day. He’d like to make it a “carnival” type event with games/activities for the kids but would also like to get a few vendors to pay to set up tables. It would be an Open House type thing where people can come and go. Concessions would be open.
- The last games of the season will be “All Star Weekend”. This will include the 6 year olds from Tee Ball and the 8 year olds from Coach Pitch playing “farewell” games since they will move on to the next level the following year. It will also include an “All Star” game played by boys picked by each coach to be “All Stars” from each team to play against each other.
- The Chevy sponsorship is almost finalized. This will give us 20 coach’s packs, 20 first aid kits and 3 dozen baseballs
- We have about a \$600 credit with Rydell. They are sending Joel a catalog so we can try to fill in our equipment shortages using the credit.
- There have been some rumors spreading that the Junior Diamond League team is already picked and the try-outs are a “front”. This is completely untrue. There are only 4 players from last year trying out again this year so there are plenty of new spots to fill.
- To make sure the selection process for the Diamond League team is completely fair; Joel will be at the tryouts and will be picking a team as if he were the coach. After try-outs are over, if the actual coach’s picks vary from Joel’s by more than 3 or 4 boys, he will sit down with the coach to try to work out the differences. If an agreement of the boys for the team cannot be compromised between the coach and Joel, Joel will take over and coach the team himself.
- There is a need for more portable hitting nets for the Knee High & Mite evaluations. There are a few around but Joel will check to see if he can find some more.
- The date of evaluations has changed to March 4th.
- Joel is still working out the details of how the evaluations will be handled
- There will be a coach’s meeting at the MTAA field on February 12th in the announcer’s booth. The Tee Ball and Coach Pitch coaches should report at 2:00 and the Knee High and Mite coaches at 3:30. At that meeting, Joel will be giving a rundown of the rules and give each coach a packet with the rules, expectations from the commissioners, information about running evaluations, etc.
- Matt Kochel reported that Tee Ball has been brought back with very minimal changes from what it has been in the past. The main change is that the teams will bat through their lineup rather than switching after three outs.
- Matt will be requesting 6 or 7 new tees for this year in his equipment purchases. He’s suggesting that we consider getting poly. Tees which are about \$75 each but would last about 10 years rather than the “cheap” ones we usually get that need to be replaced after a season or two. He also reported that there will be no catcher position in tee ball so there will be some catcher’s gear that can go to coach pitch if needed.
- Coach pitch will be using coaches to not only pitch but also act as behind the plate and base umpires
- The board asked that baseball submits their budget by the next meeting.

Fall Baseball Report (given by Commissioner Jeff Bieber)

- There is nothing happening with the sport at this time

Softball Report (given by Commissioner Kevin Button)

- There are currently 12 girls signed up at the 8U level. This is a bit low considering we need 10 to field a team, but we can make it work. There are usually enough for two teams at this level. Coach Tim Moyer's entire team from last year moved up to the 10U level but there were not enough new and previous players signed up this year to fill those spaces for a second team.
- There are 25 girls signed up at the 10U level. This will allow 13 on the "A" team and 12 on the "B" team. This is a bit lower than perfect, but it can be worked out. 10U "A" tryouts are scheduled for February 29th and March 1st.
- The biggest problem is with the 12U level. There are 18 girls signed up and the league only allows 18 on each team. This is a high number of players for one team but it can be worked. However, if just one more girl signs up, they will have to split into two teams but that means there will not be enough on each team to play properly. A "valid" team should have 13 girls on it. For this to happen we would then need an additional 7 girls signing up at the 12U level which Kevin can't see happening. Kevin would like to ask the board to consider closing the 12U registration at this point and not accepting any late sign-ups at that level. If that is decided on, then the 12U evaluations scheduled for February 27th & 28th could be canceled.
- Based on the number of girls registered at this point, Kevin does not see the need for any additional equipment to be purchased. We'll just need the usual practice balls, game balls and uniforms.
- Berks League will hold their next meeting on Thursday, February 16th to vote in new members of the board and begin to get ready for the season. Berks does not foresee a fee increase for this season so we should expect the cost to be \$25 per 8U team, and \$65 per 10U and 12U team.
- Last year, our 10U "A" team took 2nd place overall in the league standings and our 12U "A" team took 1st place in the league with a perfect 12-0 season.
- Once the teams are finalized, Kevin will contact Custom Apparel to order the uniforms to get them in earlier than last year which was the day before the first game.

New Business

- Wendy Button reported that she has set up an email account for MTAA which is mtaasports@gmail.com. This can be used to send out newsletters and any other important "mass" communications and announcements. If commissioners have anything that they need to get word out about, they can contact Wendy to blast it out to the families.

The board would like to thank Tara Neel for kindly bringing refreshments to the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 8:00pm. First by Wendy, second by Kevin

Minutes submitted by: Wendy Button, Recording Secretary