

Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 23rd, 2024 7pm

Morinville Community Cultural Centre

Call to Order 7:00pm

Establish Quorum- Quorum of greater than 25 members was not met.

1. Agenda Approval- No additions or deletions to the agenda were put forward. Motion to approve the Agenda was moved by Vikki McLaren, Seconded by Kevin McLaren. Passed Unanimously.
2. Previous Minutes Approval. Motion to approve the minutes was Moved by Rae-Lyn Lefebvre, seconded by Ray Guerette. Passed Unanimously.
3. Welcome Message- Gene Connors (President)

I want to thank everyone for taking the time to attend tonight’s Annual General Meeting.  I know we are all very tired from a long season of hockey, but this is really an opportunity to put a close on the 23-24 season and touch on the plans for the 24-25 season.  So thank you for attending!

Overall, I feel this past season was a very positive one for our Mustang, Fillies and Sting families.  I have said at previous AGM’s that I view success in minor hockey as seeing our kids develop over the entire season and walking away with smiles on their faces and wanting to come back again next year.  I know some view success based on wins and losses, but youth sport provides an outlet for children to come to the rink and escape the real stressors of life such as school, homework, part time jobs, friendships, and their home lives to name a few.  If they can come to the rink and be able to escape these stressors, learn many transferable adult skills, while exercising and building lifelong friendships we have all done our jobs.

This season there was a heavy focus on trying to build and then celebrate (SSS and Jiffy Lube Coach of the Month) the best human beings possible knowing they will be the next leaders of our society.  By this I mean, teaching transferable skills that will help all our children transition into adulthood and the workforce.  Some of these skills are:

**Teamwork:** The kids learned how to successfully work as a team to reach some common goals even if they didn’t necessarily get along.  This is also one of the best ways to learn about respect and communication.  They are all taught to respect their coaches, teammates, referees, and opponents.  Working as a team also teaches our kids how to effectively communicate with their peers and adults.  These social skills are critical in every aspect of life and minor hockey provides them with a solid foundation for these and many other valuable life lessons.  Hopefully this will help them when they enter the workforce and need to work as a team to reach a goal.

**The Value of Hard work:** By being a part of a hockey team, our kids learn what it really takes to get the job done.  Inevitably, this year, our children saw what happens when you don’t put in the work and what the less desirable results that come from that are.  BUT being successful boosts confidence and provides a sense of accomplishment that comes from being part of a team and these lessons will pay off years down the road when our kids face the many personal and professional challenges that being an adult throws our way.

**Resiliency:** Throughout the season, our kids were put into challenging situations on the ice that required them to battle through.  They likely faced an opponent that was potentially more talented.  It was how each child and team learned to respond to these which builds resiliency and character.  That ability to respond and recover is what will help them be successful as they move on into their personal lives.

**Leadership:** Hockey is pretty cool, it brings kids together from all different backgrounds and family beliefs which greatly assists our kids to learn how to work well with others.  This season our kids were provided with many opportunities to be more comfortable in leadership roles.  They learned how to support each other and hopefully found what it takes to get the most out of their fellow teammates.  This should all culminate when our kids all face challenges in the office and in personal relationships as they become adults.

**Mental Health Benefits:** Finally, some of the greatest benefits to playing minor hockey comes from the mental health side.  This season our kids learned to increase their focus and attention which is what they require for analytical and strategic thinking.  This doesn’t get put on the back burner until they become adults, this translates day in and day out at school in areas such as math and science, and hopefully better decision making as they progress through their lives.

This is just a sample of what I think minor hockey and youth sport provides our children and what our children learned this season.  This is why we as an Executive and all our volunteers did what we did this season; with the belief that this will start building our children to be the best human beings possible moving into the future.

**Next Season……**

Next year will be a different one for our hockey club.  As most of you are aware, we won’t have the use of the Legal Arena as they undergo a major retrofit of the facility.  This is slated to take 18 months if everything lines up, and I think we all know how that goes in today’s day and age.  So, this may roll into the 25-26 season as well.

I have said to many people, this will be a short-term pain for a long-term gain.  This will be a true “premier” facility and something that will be of great benefit for not only the communities of Legal and Morinville but all the many other communities we draw from to make up the Sturgeon Hockey Club.

However, this will come with some challenges to be certain.  We lost half of the ice we require to run our season.  I have spent countless hours sending emails, phone calls, and in person meetings trying to secure any ice that may be available within an hour or so of Morinville and Legal.  This has caused just a little stress.  I’m sure you’re all aware of some of the other associations that have a monopoly on the ice and how difficult it is to grab even an hour.

**Positive News……**

I’m very happy to announce that we have secured 7.5 hours of Mon-Fri ice between the Rich Valley and Garrison Arenas.  We have 4 hours of morning ice (before school) and some late evening weekday ice at the MLC. We are in talks with two more facilities within 30 mins of Morinville and hope to finalize this ice in the near future.  We also may have some weekend ice at these facilities but that will require some more conversation because as of right now, we are not allowed to play any EFHL or NAHL games in Rich Valley.  Not ideal I know, but it is what it is, and like I said, short term pain for a long-term gain.

Also, we were told by the EFHL that we were going to be able to play our homes games that would have been in Legal next season in arenas in Edmonton.  That may or may not happen at this point so that is something we are trying to work through.

What I can say is this.  The Sting and Fillies are regional programs, and these will be the programs utilizing these new arenas for next season first.  We have been wanting to bring practices closer to the associations we draw from to form these teams so this coming season will be a great way to do this, and we hope this will only further grow the programs for the future. Now if we could only get them to give us even an hour of ice

**Some Even Better NEWS….**

I am very excited to announce that our Executive has voted to NOT have any fee increases for the Mustangs and Fillies programming for the upcoming season.  The Sting side will see an increase of $100 for our 4 teams.  I am more than confident, we will once again be one of the cheaper programs to play minor hockey in the province, especially for what we provide throughout the season.

 It has always been very important to our Executive to try and make hockey as affordable as we can, especially in today’s day and age, and with the forecasted increase in ice costs we are likely to face going elsewhere, combined with some of the increases with the services provided to the Sting families, we are excited that we can do this for this season.

 Further to this, we are once again going to provide teams within the Mustangs and Fillies stream with development funds for the upcoming season to allow for the proper development of our players. This will include U7 for this year.  U7 will receive $600, U9 $1200, U11-U18 will receive $2000 ($600 to be put towards goalie development per team).

 Lastly, but certainly most importantly, I want to thank all the coaches, volunteers, directors, and executive members who stepped up this past season and worked with the players and each other throughout the year.  Minor hockey doesn’t run without the volunteers both on and off the ice, so thank you.

1. Treasurer Report- Amy Baker

Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss Comparison were presented. No questions were raised. The motion to accept these as information as presented was moved by Robert Potter, seconded by Weston Koroluk Passed Unanimously.

1. New Business- None
2. Elections- Ryan Cushing(VP) and Donna Hanssen (Ways and Means) have stepped down, and their positions will be open for a one-year term. Nominations closed on April 28th. Gene Connors Moved that the following names and positions be elected by acclimation. Passed Unanimously

**Executive Positions**

Gene Connors (President)

Weston Koroluk (Vice President)

Carl Moss (Game and Conduct)

Amy Baker (Non-Voting Treasurer)

  Kendl Skilliter (Ways and Means)

**Hockey Ops Positions**

Neil Hanssen (Coach Director)

Jennifer Lockridge (Fillies Director)

Vicky McLaren (Non-Voting Communications)

Malinda Northcott (Ice Scheduler)

Jesse Norton (Referee in Chief)

Jesse Norton (Referee Assignor)

Daniel Blundon (Equipment Director)

Matt Anderson (Director at Large)

Pamela Durdle (U7 Director)

Sam Kluthe (U9 Director)

Tyler Pincemin (U13 Director)

Rae- Lyn Lefebvre (U18 Director)

**. Request for Volunteers**

Filling the vacant roles of the Executive and the Operations Committee is crucial to have a successful season. As it stands right now, we have several vacant positions. If it remains this way, we will have no other choice but to hold off on putting certain age levels on the ice until all the roles are full. That’s certainly not ideal but a very likely reality if we are short on volunteers. If anyone is interested in stepping up and taking on a role can you please reach out to me directly via email at president@sturgeonhockeyclub.com or via phone at 780-566-1164.

1. Adjournment 7:38pm