

# Bloordale

• BASEBALL LEAGUE •

[www.bloordalebaseball.com](http://www.bloordalebaseball.com)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2015, 7 p.m.**

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 210, 110 Jutland Rd., Etobicoke**

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
  - 2.1 Approval of minutes from 2014 AGM (see attached)
3. Reports from officers:
  - i. President
  - ii. Treasurer
  - iii. Vice President
  - iv. Registrar
  - v. Sponsorship
  - vi. Equipment
  - vii. Umpire-in-chief
  - viii. Communications/Special Events
  - ix. Website / Social Media
  - x. Photography
  - xi. Skills Development
  - xii. Select/Rep Baseball
4. Divisional Convenor Reports:
  - i. TBall
  - ii. Rookie
  - iii. Mosquito
  - iv. Peewee
  - v. Bantam
  - vi. Ladies Slo-Pitch
5. Amendments to the Constitution – No proposed amendments for 2015
6. Election of Executive
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

## 3. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 3. i. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Wendy Kudeba**

This has been a year of change at Bloordale Baseball. In my first year as President, after a long-standing run by our Past President, I did not anticipate so many changes would unfold.

The landscape of baseball is changing in our city and across the province. We have been juggling budgets to determine true costs for new user fees imposed by the City of Toronto, while balancing a decreased enrolment, something many of our neighbouring leagues also reported this year. Although we track population demographics in our planning, this year experienced a particularly significant dip in enrolment.

In light of our user fees, which will again double in 2016, we need to continue to work with the city to address those areas of greatest need within our parks. This happens through our Etobicoke Baseball Association representation at Sports Council meetings and through other liaison opportunities. We need to monitor and formalize our direct feedback in the coming year to ensure the promises made in relation to user fees are kept.

Demands by our customers to play a perceptively higher level of ball, by both parents and players, are putting pressure on leagues to offer more rep baseball, which in effect erodes the house league system we are so proudly built upon. Leagues across the province are grappling with this emerging trend, particularly in light of the new "Elite" leagues which are being developed at Midget, Bantam and will soon set their sights on lower age divisions.

Addressing challenges with volunteer recruitment will continue to be a top priority for us in the coming months before we get the first game of the 2016 season under way in May. Our own board saw significant turnover this season and that is continuing into the new year. Several existing board members are doing double and triple duty to keep operations functional.

Thankfully, coaching continues to be one role we have no difficulty filling as many dedicated parents and grandparents have stepped up to provide instruction, leadership and support to the many youth teams. It is in the organizational and administrative roles that we must find new recruits to take over the reigns. Unfortunately, volunteerism trends show this type of long-term engagement is not as popular in today's fast-paced, highly-scheduled world of work and play. Significant redevelopment of our structure may be necessary.

There were many highlights for me this season. There is always much joy in watching a child hit his/her first ball and make it to base, with a well-earned high-five from the coach. In seeing the eyes of the Tball players grow wide with wonder as they receive what is, for many, their first sports trophy. Others glow with pride when they receive their jerseys, and the rep/select crew build Bloordale's brand when they wear their embroidered old-English B hats to school.

One of the great highlights at the end of the season was watching our peewee teams, attending their banquet night, cheer the Jays to a must-win victory in the ALS East playoffs. Trophies and comments were limited to commercial breaks. I watched with joy their pure love of the game, confident it is this passion for the sport that brings players back to Bloordale year after year. Confident it is the best volunteers in our ranks who help them to grow as players and as good citizens in our community.

As many of my presidential colleagues across the province anticipate, 2016 promises to be a busier than usual year as a high level of success for the Jays translates to increased profile for baseball and likely higher enrolment.

As a member of Etobicoke Baseball Association, Bloordale is permitted two votes at that organization. In 2015, Bloordale members Naeem Siddiq and Brian Moore most frequently represented Bloordale. Bloordale is well represented at other levels of baseball organization within Ontario. President Wendy Kudeba and Past President Patrick McConnell are members of the Select Ontario Baseball Association Board (SOBA); at the OBA AGM this past weekend, Patrick was also elected to the Board of Management for the Ontario Baseball Association as a select division representative. Wendy is the GM Select for Etobicoke Baseball Association and Patrick is President of Etobicoke Baseball Association.

I thank you all for your dedication and commitment, and I look forward to working with you to build upon our successes from this past season. And, to having our team meet any challenges which come our way with collaboration and enthusiasm.

Thank you.

**3.ii. TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2015**  
**Brian Walsh**

**Operations**

For the year ended October 31, 2015, Bloordale Baseball League had an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$4,239. For the previous year ending October 31, 2014, we had reported an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$12,866. The actual surplus this year of \$4,239 is a less favourable result than the budgeted surplus of \$5,601 by a margin of \$1,362.

These results show the operations of the house league only. The league's total results include an additional \$75,000 of revenues and expenses from the operations of the select and AA teams which all operate on a break-even basis.

**Revenues**

Our revenues for 2015 of \$90,514 are lower than those of last year by \$19,222 or 18%. This year over year decrease is due primarily to an 18% drop in player registrations with additional decreases in Sponsorship, AA Team, Banquet and Tournament Hosting revenues. Revenues from Permit Recovery and BBQ increased in 2015, partially mitigating the above mentioned losses.

Overall registration in the league was down by 74 players, an 18% decrease with reduced registrations from all divisions except Mosquito and Bantam.

Registration fees were not raised for 2015 in spite of our incurring increased permitting fees from the city and school boards for the use of the parks.

For a six year comparative history of the divisional registrations, please refer to Appendix 2 Comparative Registration Summary.

Sponsorship revenue is down \$4,000 or 45% from last year but there was an additional \$2,000 received from CLR which was specifically applied to our Skills Development Costs.

Banquet revenues are lower than those of 2014 by \$351 due to lower attendance which is also a function of lower overall registration. Other sources of revenue this year included the \$4,800 from the four AA teams and \$2,206 from the BBQ operations, which was up 47% from the 2014 results.

Interest Revenue dropped to \$699 this year due to decreased investments in term deposits and lower rates upon renewal. Bloordale also earned a net of \$180 on hosting tournaments.

**Expenditures**

Overall expenses are down \$10,595 or 11% from those of last year and are also \$26,342 below budget. This is primarily due to decreased variable costs associated with handling 18% fewer players as well as delays in starting field maintenance projects. The lower costs mentioned above were partly offset by further increases in permit fees imposed by the city and school boards.

Skills Development at \$1,268 is \$3,068 or 71% below budget and \$1,086 lower than last year's cost. This lower cost reflects a \$2,000 sponsorship applied specifically to Skills Development as mentioned above.

Banquet expenses are lower by \$2,862 or 22%. This increase is totally due to our lower registration numbers.

A breakdown of banquet revenues and expenses is included on the attached Appendix 3 of this report. The higher BBQ revenue mentioned above resulted in higher BBQ Operations Costs. BBQ Operations Costs for 2015 at \$1,481 were higher by \$411 or 38% from the \$1,070 of 2014. The net profit from the BBQ operations totalled \$725 for the season.

Equipment spending for house league teams at \$6,949 was 41% lower than the \$11,843 reported in 2014 and also \$5,334 or 43% below budget.

The entire \$4,000 reported for Field Maintenance in 2015 comes from this year's accrual for the planned \$12,000 container storage unit which will be attached to the batting cage at Millwood. This facility will be used to further increase the security of the pitching machine as well as to improve our storage capabilities at Millwood. We are, once again, awaiting the approval from the city to install the unit. Other planned field improvements were not initiated during the year.

Meeting costs reflect the cost of a Wings Night for Ladies Slo-Pitch and the cost of this AGM.

Permit costs reflect the costs of diamonds run by the City of Toronto and the TDSB and gyms permitted for training purposes. That these costs are only up only 10% over those of last year is more a reflection of our reduced usage due to the 18% reduction in the number of our players partially compensating for the increased user fees imposed by the City. These costs are partially offset by permit recovery fees included in the revenue section above.

Registration expenses at \$5,598 are lower than the \$6,718 of last year by \$1,120 or 17% due decreased registrations.

Photography and Umpire costs are lower than in 2014 due to decreased registrations.

Trophy costs up due to higher prices, work on permanent trophies and providing the Bantam EBA trophies.

Uniform costs up due to 25% higher prices on Ladies jerseys and extra sets of T-Ball, Rookie and PeeWee uniforms purchased.

### **Balance Sheet Review**

As of October 31, 2015, the League had total net assets of \$79,073 of which virtually all is held in bank accounts and term deposits. The term deposits currently earn interest at rates from 1.1% to 1.2% annually.

Accounts Receivable of \$1,844 is comprised of amounts from sponsors and other advances.

Prepaid Expenses include prepaid storage costs at our storage facility and the costs of extra baseballs and pants purchased for next season.

Other liabilities of \$24,749 include, amounts owing to AA teams, the accrual for the storage container and other accrued charges.

The Insurance Reserve is a reserve for self-insurance on the loss or destruction of our equipment. No funds were drawn from this reserve this year.

### **Surplus**

As at October 31, 2015 the League had accumulated a surplus of \$79,073. This Surplus is intended to cushion the League from any significant adverse unknown and unforeseen financial developments, and to fund future capital expenditures that are required from time to time and are not generally covered by fees.

## Treasurer's Report: Statement of Operations

### BLOODALE BASEBALL LEAGUE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Period Ended -	October 31, 2015	2015 <u>Budget</u> (full year)	2015 <u>ACTUAL</u> (full year)	Excess (Shortfall) to Budget	2014 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2015 Actual / 2014 Actual Over / (Short)
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Registration - Regular		69,585	53,130	(16,455)	66,673	(13,543)
Registration - Juniors / AA Teams		6,000	4,800	(1,200)	6,000	(1,200)
Registration - Ladies Slo Pitch		16,400	14,004	(2,396)	16,390	(2,386)
Family Discount		(500)	(280)	220	(1,320)	1,040
Sponsor Fees		9,450	4,850	(4,600)	8,850	(4,000)
Banquets		4,027	3,675	(352)	4,026	(351)
Fundraising BBQ		3,200	2,206	(994)	1,503	703
Fan Wear		500	0	(500)	50	(50)
Permit Recovery		8,706	7,250	(1,456)	5,804	1,446
Interest		850	699	(151)	758	(59)
Other	Tournament Hosting	0	180	180	1,002	(822)
		118,218	90,514	(27,704)	109,736	(19,222)
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Skills Development		4,336	1,268	3,068	2,354	1,086
Banquets		13,108	10,258	2,850	13,120	2,862
BBQ Operations Costs		2,500	1,481	1,019	1,070	(411)
Equipment		12,283	6,949	5,334	11,843	4,893
BBQ Equip		0	0	0	164	164
Fields		7,000	4,000	3,000	4,515	515
Insurance		1,980	1,872	108	1,980	108
Meetings		2,117	1,104	1,013	2,016	912
Permits		17,567	12,828	4,739	11,694	(1,134)
Administration (Website)		676	1,574	(898)	642	(932)
Photographs		1,973	1,611	362	1,973	361
Registration		8,399	5,598	2,801	6,718	1,120
Storage		2,249	2,314	(65)	2,559	245
Supplies		700	567	133	719	152
Trophies		4,952	4,899	53	4,526	(373)
Umpire Fees		7,040	4,925	2,115	6,190	1,265
Uniforms		25,738	25,027	711	24,788	(239)
		112,617	86,275	26,342	96,870	10,595
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses</b>		5,601	4,239	(1,362)	12,866	(8,627)

BALANCE SHEET as at	October 31, 2015	2015	2014
<b>Cash</b>			
Chequing		63,797	25,806
Term Deposit	1.10 % Maturing June 6, 2016	10,072	10,052
Term Deposit	1.20 % Maturing May 6, 2017	30,176	30,370
Term Deposit		(0)	26,287
Amounts Receivable		1,844	3,958
Prepaid Expenses		4,238	0
Capital Assets		2	2
Other Liabilities		(24,749)	(15,936)
Self Insurance Reserve		(6,307)	(5,707)
		79,073	74,834
<b>Surplus</b>			
Opening		74,834	61,968
Excess of revenues over expenses		4,239	12,866
		79,073	74,834
Ending		(0.00)	0

**Treasurer's Report Appendix 1  
REGISTRATION SUMMARY**

	Players Registered	Registration Received	Discounts Given	Refund Recapture	Net Registration
T-Ball	82	11,408	70		11,408
Rookie	54	12,090	70	12	12,102
Mosquito	64	14,380	70	20	14,400
PeeWee	36	8,430			8,430
Boys Bantam	29	6,790			6,790
Boys Midget					-
House Sub Total	265	53,098	210	32	53,130
Ladies Slo Pitch	68	13,980	70	24	14,004
Total	333	67,078	280	56	67,134

**Treasurer's Report Appendix 2  
COMPARITIVE REGISTRATION SUMMARY**

	2015			2014			2013		
	#	Total \$	Cost per Player Registered	#	Total \$	Cost per Player Registered	#	Total \$	Cost per Player Registered
<b><u>Main Banquet</u></b>									
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>									
Door Receipts		2,870.00			3,459.00			3,536.00	
50/50 Draw Profit		805.00			567.00			363.50	
Total Banquet Revenue		3,675.00			4,026.00			3,899.50	
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>									
Cost of Meals		6,831.07			9,916.75			8,287.68	
Cost of Room		263.53			141.59			162.77	
Prizes & Tickets		479.60						285.59	
Newsletter & Surveys									
Net Cost of Main Banquet	236	\$ 3,899.20	\$ 16.52	304	\$ 6,032.34	\$ 19.84	308	\$ 4,836.54	\$ 15.70
<b><u>Other Banquets</u></b>									
Boys Bantam	29	678.00	\$ 23.38	23	672.35	\$ 29.23	39	750.00	\$ 19.23
Ladies Slo Pitch	68	2,006.00	\$ 29.50	81	2,389.50	\$ 29.50	86	2,487.00	\$ 28.92
Net Total Banquet Cost		\$ 6,583.20			\$ 9,094.19			\$ 8,073.54	

**Treasurer's Report Appendix 3  
BANQUET REVENUE & EXPENSES**

	2015			2014			2013		
<u>Main Banquet</u>									
<u>Revenues</u>	#	Total \$	Cost per Player <u>Registered</u>	#	Total \$	Cost per Player <u>Registered</u>	#	Total \$	Cost per Player <u>Registered</u>
Door Receipts		2,870.00			3,459.00			3,536.00	
50/50 Draw Profit		805.00			567.00			363.50	
Total Banquet Revenue		3,675.00			4,026.00			3,899.50	
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Cost of Meals		6,831.07			9,916.75			8,287.68	
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Boys Bantam	29	678.00	\$ 23.38	23	672.35	\$ 29.23	39	750.00	\$ 19.23
Ladies Slo Pitch	68	2,006.00	\$ 29.50	81	2,389.50	\$ 29.50	86	2,487.00	\$ 28.92
Net Total Banquet Cost		\$ 6,583.20			\$ 9,094.19			\$ 8,073.54	



### **3.iii. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Rick O'Connell**

It has been again my pleasure to serve as a Bloordale executive. As always, I am happy to volunteer alongside such dedicated volunteers.

As a league umpire and executive member, I have had pleasure to see Bloordale teams of all levels play at parks throughout the neighbourhood. It's great to see players of all skill levels enjoying the game of baseball. I trust everybody had fun. I extend my personal thanks to the many parent volunteers, coaches and convenors that make Bloordale such a wonderful community-based league. I continue to hear positive feedback from within our organization as well as from teams visiting our diamonds from other organizations. Congratulations to Bloordale members on another fantastic year.

Unfortunately due to personal reasons and other outside commitments, I will be stepping down after many years on the executive and board of directors team. I will remain as a dedicated Bloordale volunteer and will continue to assist in league activities and events as time permits.

### **3.iv. REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

**Mike Giorno (per Patrick McConnell)**

Registration for the 2015 season went smoothly and no major challenges were encountered. Our overall registration was down 17 per cent this year with the largest decrease occurring in the Peewee Division. This can be attributed a new Rep A team at the peewee level that drew the equivalent of 9 players out of the house league ranks. The former Bloordale players who were on that team in 2014 advanced to Rep AAA (Etobicoke Rangers) or other AA teams in Etobicoke.

We currently have a 'bubble' moving through the league that in 2015 kept the Mosquito numbers at a consistent level. That being said, 2015 saw an additional 12 mosquito-age players (formerly select and house league) move to another Etobicoke-based league to play Rep A.

The Rookie division experienced the loss of the 'Bubble' in 2015 and showed a reduction of 35 players. In the T-Ball division we had a wait list of 8 players (due to late registration requests). Had we the capacity to accommodate these players, our numbers would have been stable.

The Bantam division was strong, experiencing very little attrition from the peewee to bantam transition that has historically occurred.

Not captured in the house league registration summary chart below, Bloordale had four Rep (A/AA) teams in 2015. Those teams account for an additional 52 players (mosquito to bantam age) within Bloordale's ranks.

Division	2015 Players	2014 Players	Year over Year	% change
<b>T-Ball</b>	82	91	-9	-9.9
<b>Rookie</b>	54	89	-35	-39.3
<b>Mosquito</b>	64	64	0	0.0
<b>PeeWee</b>	36	61	-25	-41.0
<b>Boys Bantam</b>	29	23	6	26.1
<b>Boys Midget</b>	0	0	0	0.0
<b>House Sub Total</b>	265	328	-63	-19.2
<b>Ladies Slo Pitch</b>	68	73	-5	-6.8
<b>Total</b>	333	401	-68	-17.0

With the success of the Toronto Blue Jays in 2015, it can be anticipated that our registration at the lower divisions will trend up in 2016. We experienced this same trending in 2013 when the Blue Jays made a number of large pre-season roster signings.

We project our Bantam numbers in 2016 will be lower for two reasons: A senior PeeWee Select team moving to minor bantam age has decided to go Rep A (the equivalent of 8 players moving out of the House League ranks but still within the Bloordale family.) Likewise, the major age Bantam Select players (the equivalent of 12 players) will be forming a Rep AA team under the Bloordale banner for the 2016 season.

#### Registration Methods:

- **In-person:** Three in-person sessions were held at Cloverdale Mall. All of them were quite successful as parents were able to register their kids in person. Four separate computers were available to register online which helped to reduce the waiting time. Division convenors and Executive team members were present to help and questions. Flyers with League dates of note were also distributed.
- **Online:** The majority of registrations are still being done by our customers online taking advantage of our Thruva system.

#### Advertising:

- **Flyers:** We did not do a school flyer campaign this year as various work to rule and/or pre-strike situations affected opportunity in some areas. We are considering returning to this in the future.
- **Group Emails:** Multiple pre-registration emails were sent out to our previous year registrants in our database.
- **Display Signs:** This season signs announcing the registration info/dates were placed at three different locations for a total duration of three month. Signs were displayed about two weeks prior to first in-person/on-line registration date. Signs were located at Centennial Park, Neilson Park, and Millwood Park
- **Personal Phone Calls:** Near the end of the Registration season, all division convenors were provided with lists of family contacts who had not yet registered and personal calls were made to encourage sign-ups or to find out where they will be playing, if at all.

**Registration Forms:** No paper registration forms were printed this year and left over forms from the previous years were utilized with some minor manual adjustment at the time of the registration, as required.

**Information/inquiry through registrar email:** Approximately 35 emails were received before and during the season with different inquiries. All emails were replied back in timely manner with requested info/inquiry or directed to appropriate league officials.

### **3.v. SPONSORSHIP**

Director, Joe Smith - Verbal report.

### **3.vi. EQUIPMENT**

Director, Equipment & Purchasing Paul McLeod - Verbal report.

### **3.vii. UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF**

Cecilia Fulton - Verbal report.

### **3.viii. COMMUNICATIONS/SPECIAL EVENTS**

Coordinator Wendy Kudeba

**Sponsor Packages:** For the second year, in order to assist with everyone's ability to approach sponsors, a standard Sponsor Package was produced.

**Barbecues:** In 2014, it was noted that if new volunteers are not secured for the barbecue, additional revenue-generating opportunities will not be possible in future years. In 2015, we were able to run barbecues on three tournament weekends in Bloordale. Unfortunately, opening day was hampered by inclement weather and lack of volunteers and closing day weather was also uncooperative.

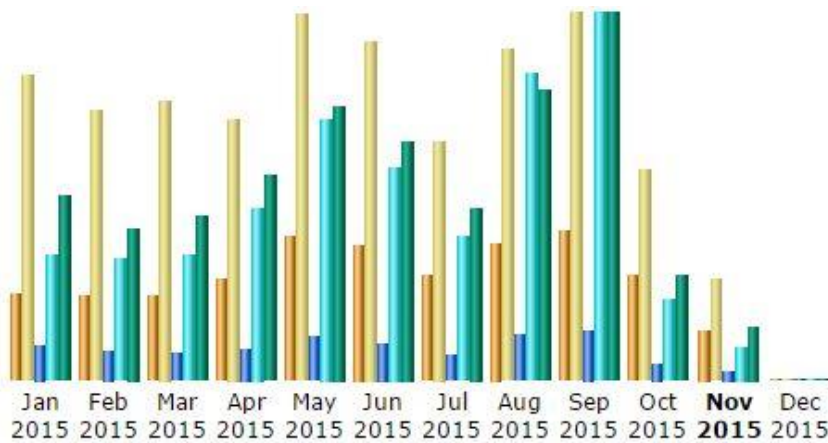
**Banquets:** Rookie, Mosquito, and Peewee banquets returned to the Canadiana this year. For the third year, Silverthorn Collegiate proved to be a great venue for the younger Tball banquet, which has to host over 140 people including parents, players and coaches. The Bantam division held a year-end party at the E-Zone in place of a banquet and trophy.

### **3.ix. WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

Webmaster Patrick McConnell

Bloordale Baseball's website ([www.bloordalebaseball.com](http://www.bloordalebaseball.com)) and social media accounts (Twitter @bloordale and Facebook) continue to be valuable communication tools with our members and those who participate in Bloordale-sponsored events and tournaments. We are happy to see people using the site throughout the season for schedules, standings, tournament information, registration, and event information. We have strong year-over-year visits with distinct trends based on seasonal league activity. When appropriate, custom buttons and dedicated pages were created around tournament hosting (TBA Peewee Select Championships, SOBA Midget Provincial Championships) and special league events (Photo Day, Registration, Select and Rep team tryouts, AGM).

The website and social media accounts played an integral role in the many tournaments we hosted for promotion, communicating to teams and for posting of results. We also saw a significant spike in website hits during Aug and Sept (mostly attributed to tournaments, HL playoffs, Select and Rep Team tryouts) as well as in May and June (House League operations).



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	1,365	4,820	20,993	71,420	3.50 GB
Feb 2015	1,328	4,277	16,668	69,447	2.90 GB
Mar 2015	1,355	4,433	15,922	71,996	3.11 GB
Apr 2015	1,586	4,155	17,977	98,930	3.91 GB
May 2015	2,274	5,781	24,622	149,503	5.22 GB
Jun 2015	2,143	5,390	21,842	121,876	4.54 GB
Jul 2015	1,674	3,804	14,609	81,893	3.29 GB
Aug 2015	2,178	5,254	26,374	176,061	5.53 GB
Sep 2015	2,360	5,811	28,527	210,047	6.97 GB
Oct 2015	1,665	3,326	9,733	45,538	2.00 GB
<b>Nov 2015</b>	803	1,588	4,954	19,136	1.04 GB
Dec 2015	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,731</b>	<b>48,639</b>	<b>202,221</b>	<b>1,115,847</b>	<b>42.02 GB</b>



We welcome content from parents and coaches, so please send your content ideas, photos, videos and stories to [webmaster@bloordalebaseball.com](mailto:webmaster@bloordalebaseball.com). Unfortunately, during 2015 the site and social media accounts were not updated as frequently as we would like due to a lack of a single volunteer being solely committed to this function. For this reason, we are also looking for volunteers to help co-ordinate our website and assist with posting content and social media.

### **3.x. PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Director, Atul Marathe**

2015 season saw three photo days with the league pictures being divided into three dates:

- T-Ball, Rookie, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam, Select and Rep
- Bantam and re-takes
- Ladies slo pitch

Due to the number of teams involved we had two photography stations set up at one location during the first and busiest photo day. Based on comments from families and advance photo dates provided to parents, we noticed very low turnout on the reschedule day and I received fewer calls for rescheduled photos this year.

All house league, select, and slo-pitch teams were given the opportunity for team and individual pictures. Rep teams opted out of photos this year. Sponsorship plaques were also created for distribution to team sponsors.

Future Stars continued to be our photography partner. As per previous year, I recommend we continue to provide photography dates well in advance so the reschedule load could be reduced.

### **3.xi. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

**Director, Dave Good (per Patrick McConnell)**

Bloordale Baseball continues to stress the importance of player and coach skills development at all levels. The more players are able to successfully execute the skills of the game, the more they will enjoy playing it and the level of play will increase across the board. We would like to thank the generous financial sponsorship support from Ray Riendeau (CLR) that has helped us to deliver these programs at no additional cost to our families.

Bloordale's Skills Development program is multifaceted and includes:

- Mosquito Age Pitching Clinics
- Outside professional instruction for House League players (Mosquito to Bantam)
- House League Coaching Clinics
- Umpire Development funding
- National Coaching Certificate Program (NCCP) funding for Select and Rep level coaches

#### **Mosquito Pitching Clinics**

More than 45 House League, Select and Rep players attended our Spring Pitching Clinics for the Mosquito age group. The progressive two-module clinic was offered twice over four nights in a local school gym. The clinic is run by volunteer NCCP Certified coaches from within Bloordale's roster of coaches. As this is the first year in which players are actually pitching, Bloordale hosts organized clinics before the start of the season to help players learn how to pitch (and throw), to help them acquire proper pitching (and throwing) mechanics. It also helps them overcome any anxiety they might have about getting on the mound for the first time. Again this year, the response was strong, and the feedback was excellent. The program should be continued.

#### **House League Skills Clinics**

Early in the regular season, one week of regular season house league games were replaced for all age levels from Rookie to Bantam (TBall was not included) with sessions at Proteach Baseball. It included professional training for all players on the basics of throwing, hitting, fielding, and base running. Sessions were well attended, feedback was excellent, and the benefit to our players was obvious. It is recommended that these professional training sessions be continued in future seasons.

### **House League Coaching Clinics**

Coaching clinics for new and/or existing coaches were planned for the season, under the auspices of the Etobicoke Baseball Association. Attendance by Bloordale coaches was light this year, most likely due to scheduling difficulties. We should continue encourage our coaches to get as involved in the development of their skills as we do our players.

### **Umpire Development**

As part of our Skills Development program, the league also invests in umpires. All of our umpires are required to annually attend a Baseball Ontario umpire certification program. If an umpire works scheduled games with Bloordale, the league will pay the umpire clinic cost. (see UiC report for more details)

### **National Coaching Certificate Program**

All Bloordale Rep and Select coaches are required to have achieved a certain level within the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP). The league provides funding to help offset the cost of these required courses. It is recommended we continue to do so.

## **3.xii. SELECT & REP REPORT**

**Director, Select Patrick McConnell**

**Director, Rep Naeem Siddiq**

Bloordale boasts an active Select and Rep program.

**SELECT:** In 2015 we saw 51 House League players sign on with four Select teams (rookie, mosquito, peewee and bantam). Our select teams played all season long, represented Bloordale in inter-league play and travelled to tournaments across Ontario. Our select teams did very well:

- Rookie: Champions TBA West
- Mosquito: First Place, Regular Season TBA West
- Bantam : Finalist, TBA West

Every select coach reports player skill development was key to team successes this year. Bloordale also convened the TBA West Peewee Select division and hosted the TBA West Peewee Select championship tournament. We also hosted the SOBA Midget Provincial Championship tournament.

In 2016, Bloordale will have five select teams (Rookie, 2 Mosquito, Peewee and Bantam). Select team rostered players will continue to show leadership within the house league ranks.

**REP (A/AA):** 2015 was the fourth year Bloordale has fielded Rep (A/AA) OBA-carded teams. In total, 52 players signed with 4 Rep teams. While all teams performed well and report successful seasons with plenty of player development, our best overall team finish was:

- Bantam – Finalist TBA; First Place, TBA Regular Season

Growing Bloordale's rep program has resulted in increased exposure of the league throughout Toronto and the province. The success of our teams has also attracted players to Bloordale at all levels and boosted our select and house league ranks. 2015 was a challenge to get coach certification clinics completed. We hope to start sooner in the year to get certifications completed faster.

Work done on the Millwood infield during the fall of 2015 (getting rid of lip, cleaning up the grass edges and laying new sod to square up the grass dimensions) will go a long way to improve play and safety of players. In 2016, Bloordale will field 6 rep teams at the following levels: Mosquito, Minor Peewee, Major Peewee, Minor Bantam A, Minor Bantam AA, and Minor Midget. We are looking at a new centralized uniform order format for Rep and Select teams for 2016 and will be modifying look and brand for the new season.

**Detailed Select and Rep Team reports, as reported by coaches and where submitted, are as follows:**

**Division:** Rookieball      **Loop played / number of teams:** TBA West/ 6 teams  
**Year-end classification:** Select      **Head Coach:** Jim Soutlanidis  
**Assistant Coaches :** Carlos Benevides, Mike Condoyiannis , Craig Christie, Craig Schreder  
**# of players on roster:** 14 Players  
**Season Record: 22-11-0**

- Exhibition games (w-l-t) 0-1-0
- Regular Season games (w-l-t) 11-4-0
- Playoff games (EBA) (w-l-t) 4-0-0
- Tournament record (w-l-t) 1-2-0
- # of tournaments entered: 3 (4-6-0)

**Final standing end of season:** TBA West Champions, Qualifier Provincial Championships

**Season Highlights:** Started with virtually a brand new team with majority of players never having played above House League. Stressed player and skill development throughout the season and saw substantial growth (started the season 1-3 and finished 11-4). Great Game notes: Shutout Royal York in the EBA finals 13-0 with only one player reaching 2nd base; allowed only 3 runs to eventual provincial champions in a losing effort.

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** Identify high level kids from major T ball and minor rookie ball house league and recommend they come to the tryouts, thus ensuring best possible talent pool to select roster from.

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**Division:** Mosquito      **Loop played / number of teams:** TBA West/ 6 teams  
**Year-end classification:** Select      **Head Coach:** Dong Lee  
**Final standing end of season:** First after round robin regular season  
**Assistant Coaches:** Derrick Russell, Mauro Chiera, Andrew Frost, Vince Carabetta  
**# of players on roster:** 11 and 1 AP  
**Season Record:**

- Exhibition games (w-l-t): 2-2-1
- Regular Season games (w-l-t) 13-2
- Playoff games (w-l-t) 1-2
- Tournament record (w-l-t) 14-5-1
- # of tournaments entered : 4

**Final standing end of season:** First place regular season round robin play, lost in the playoffs.

**Season Highlights:** We won one tournament, came second in another and had a very good regular season record.

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** Millwood 2 is, as you know, a very difficult diamond to play when there is any amount of rain prior to a game or practice. Otherwise we have no other issues.

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**Division:** Pee wee      **Loop played / number of teams:** TBA West / 9 Teams  
**Year-end classification:** Select      **Head Coach:** Marcello Nigro  
**Assistant Coaches:** Dave Good, Don MacFarlane, Rob Lowe (manager)  
**# of players on roster:** 13

**Season Record:**

- Exhibition games (w-l-t): n/a
- Regular Season games (w-l-t): 6-6-1
- Playoff games (w-l-t) 2-2-0
- Provincials (w-l-t) N/A
- Tournament record (w-l-t) 2-5-1
- # of tournaments entered : 3

**Final standing end of season:** Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in regular season, we were eliminated on day 3 (Sunday) of the SOBA Regional Tournament.

**Season Highlights:** We lost out on a tiebreaker from advancing to Sunday play in the West Hill Peewee Tournament. We came back from 8 runs down to beat Peterborough 12-10 in 3<sup>rd</sup> game of round robin play. We missed advancing by 1 run against in the 3 game total. The team also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and won 6 games which is a big improvement from 8<sup>th</sup> and winning only 2 games 2014.

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** We are moving up to play Minor Bantam Rep A. The team has added 5 new players and 1 new coach for next season. We are also planning to practice more with more specialized workouts to help the boys improve and develop.

**Division:** Bantam      **Loop played / number of teams:** TBA West / 7 Teams

**Year-end classification:** Select      **Head Coach:** Mike Woolcock

**Assistant Coaches:** Norm Carriere, Russ Loewen

**# of players on roster:** 13

**Season Record: 18-8-0**

- Exhibition games (w-l-t): n/a
- Regular Season games (w-l-t): 12-3
- Playoff games (w-l-t) 3-2
- Provincials (w-l-t) n/a
- Tournament record (w-l-t) 6-5
- # of tournaments entered : 3

**Final standing end of season:** Finalist, TBA West

**Season Highlights:** Finalist Forest Glen Tournament, lost three games in two years in the regular season loop play (all losses this year playing in a loop as a minor team vs major and blended age teams). Going Rep in 2016 (adding three new players).

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** looking forward to the move to Rep and higher level competition.

**Division:** Mosquito      **Loop played / number of teams:** 5 TBA, 4 YSBA

**Year-end classification:** Rep AA      **Head Coach:** Glenn Lovegrove

**Assistant Coaches:** Anthony Rzepka, Leo Salas

**# of players on roster:** 11 plus 1 call up

**Season Record**                      **x**

- Exhibition games (w-l-t):      x
- Regular Season games (w-l-t) x



- Playoff games (w-l-t) x
- Provincial Championships: x
- Tournament record (w-l-t) x
- # of tournaments entered : 4

**Final standing end of season:**

**Season Highlights:** TBA playoff weekend came within a game of advancing to provincials. Competitive in all tournaments, making two semi finals. Positive experience for all players and families.

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** Field improvements for Millwood 2 are necessary to avoid water-related cancellations. Our roster changes for 2016 should result in a stronger overall team for 2016. We will be staying to play in the AA TBA loop.

**Division:** Minor Peewee      **Loop played / number of teams:** TBA/YSBA

**Year-end classification:** Rep A      **Head Coach:** Michael Giorno

**Assistant Coaches:**

**# of players on roster:** x

**Season Record:** x

- Exhibition games (w-l-t): x
- Regular Season games (w-l-t) x
- Playoff games (w-l-t) x
- Provincial Championships: x
- Tournament record (w-l-t) x
- # of tournaments entered : x

**Final standing end of season:** x

**Season Highlights:** x x

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** x

**Division:** Major Peewee      **Loop played / number of teams:** TBA/YSBA 8 teams

**Year-end classification:** Rep AA      **Head Coach:** Mike Barry

**Assistant Coaches:** Mark Price, Jamie Reed, Dave Willson

**# of players on roster:** 12

**Season Record** 29-19-1

- Exhibition games (w-l-t): 2-3-0
- Regular Season games (w-l-t) 11-8-1
- Playoff games (w-l-t) 2-2-0
- Provincials (w-l-t) 2-2-0
- Tournament record (w-l-t) 12-4-0
- # of tournaments entered : 4

**Final standing end of season:** TBA Finalist

**Season Highlights:** Top TBA team in regular loop play, final six in province, won London Badgers tournament, reached Sunday in all four tournaments, three players hit first 'over the fence' homeruns, a no-hitter complete game thrown during tournament

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** none at this time

**Division:** Major Bantam      **Loop played / number of teams:** 5 TBA / 6 YSBA (11 Total)

**Year-end classification:** Rep AA      **Head Coach:** Naeem Siddiq

**Assistant Coaches:** Jon Bezanan, Soni Patal

**# of players on roster:** 13

**Season Record 28-12-0**

- Exhibition games (w-l-t): many but not recorded
- Regular Season games (w-l-t) 13-7
- Playoff games (w-l-t) 4-1
- Tournament record (w-l-t) 11-4-0
- # of tournaments entered : 4

**Final standing end of season:** TBA Finalist AA

**Season Highlights:** Finalist, TBA; First Place, TBA regular season. Won Bolton Tournament, defeating the ultimate OBA champion Halton Hills in the final of the tournament.

**Suggested improvements for 2016:** Travel to U.S. for tougher competition. Midget and Bantam Elite Leagues will present challenges for generating competition for our team to play.

## 4. DIVISIONAL CONVENOR REPORTS

### 4.i. TBALL

**Convenor Wendy Kudeba**

Bloordale continues to employ the Super 7 format for Tball whereby teams are smaller so players spend less time on the bench and more time on the field. Overall, there were 81 players registered, divided among 10 teams. Several additional players were added to a wait list after the initial registration closing date and a few were able to secure spots when other players opted out early in the season. Additional players early in the season also would have alleviated challenges of low team numbers during summer vacation periods.

A mix of new and returning coaches provided leadership and skills development to the division. Unfortunately, attendance at pre-season clinics was a bit low, resulting in placement of about 12% of players without knowledge of skill sets or past experience, many of whom were new players.

There were growing pains with a new convenor at the helm and some concerns with regard to team balance, particularly at the start of the season. This was exacerbated by an abundance of new players at the entry age level of the league (age 5) and at the far end of the age bracket (age 7). Additional investigation, through a parent survey, will have to take place prior to 2016 registration to determine if there are better opportunities to seek when it comes to team placement.

In addition, it has been suggested a pre-season coaches meeting to work out pairings among volunteers would be helpful to the process.

Scheduling in September, with a late Labour Day, pushed playoffs to the third weekend, resulting in a number of rain dates. Luckily, on the last available Saturday, the finals were held. Playoffs narrowed the field down to the National and American League playoffs, resulting in Champions Keating Roofing and Canadiana Restaurant and finalists ProTeach and Future Stars.

#### **4.ii. ROOKIE**

**Convenor, Cameron Summers (per Patrick McConnell)**

The registration for the 2015 Rookie Ball season dropped off year-over-year (see Registrar's report). We fielded four teams in 2015, down from the seven in 2014. Once again we interlocked with the Forest Glen Baseball Association which had two teams in the loop. Balancing teams continues to be a challenge as families make multiple requests to play with each other that can result in dominant teams within the loop.

For the sixth consecutive year the Rookieball division participated in the ProTeach skills development sessions. As usual the turnout was very good and all feedback was positive.

The regular season had few challenges except for the usual rainout game rescheduling issues. The playoffs saw each team play a round robin three-team pool format with the top 2 teams from each division crossing over to play each other in the semi finals. The level of play improved dramatically over the summer making for some very close playoff games. The four Bloordale teams qualified for the semifinals allowing the two Forest Glen teams to play off for a Forest Glen Champion. This year's Bloordale HL Playoff Champion was ScotiaBank, coached by Courtney Chambers. Keating Roofing, coached by Carlos Benevides, was the 2015 Playoff Finalist. ScotiaBank was also the Regular Season champion.

Summer drop-in practice sessions, open to all House League, were once again organized and helped keep player interest during the summer and further skill development. Many thanks to Courteny Chambers and Tina Ginglo for spearheading this initiative.

Congratulations to the 2015 RookieBall Select team on winning the TBA West Championship.

Many thanks are also extended to the League Executive for their ongoing support and hard work behind the scenes in support of the division and the league as a whole.

#### **Recommendations**

- A division convenor must be recruited for the 2016 season.
- Continue interlock arrangement with Forest Glen
- Invite Forest Glen players to ProTeach training nights (cost to be paid by Forest Glen)
- Limit the number of player requests to teams to give the convenors more ability to balance.
- An open practice/assessment session (similar to TBall) for new players to gauge current skill levels
- Post season coach evaluation forms on existing players to establish a baseline for the following season for those returning (moving up from Tball or staying in Rookie). This could help with the team balancing challenge. For those players moving on to mosquito, the evaluation could move up with the player
- Continue to run summer drop-ins so long as a volunteer can be found to organize
- Field upgrades continue to be required. Grass encroaching on Neilson Park Diamond needs be addressed (around home plate and the foul line areas). More limestone screenings and appropriate grading is required for both Broadacres Park and Neilson.

#### **4.iii. MOSQUITO**

##### **Convenors John Valvano and Dong Lee**

This season we ran with 5 teams in Mosquito – total of 65 players. Forest Glen did not field a team in our loop this year. Having 5 teams, allowed one team to practice and we think this provided the coaches with some valuable time to teach their players the fundamentals. Dong Lee and myself were first year conveners of the division and learned much about the process.

There were a number of parent requests during the registration period and for the most part, we were able to keep the parents and players happy. Two of the teams had a larger composition of Major Mosquito players and that did play a factor in the playoffs.

The preseason pitching clinics (4 in total) were an excellent start to the season. Thanks to Patrick McConnell, Dave Good and the other directors at large that participated. We allowed children to attend multiple sessions which resulted in very well attended clinics.

The Mosquito Pro-Teach session were run indoors at the ProTeach facility. As usual the turnout was very good. There were two 90 minutes sessions with 2-3 teams at each session. At ProTeach the kids can be separated into multiple stations so we can have larger session and the kids can still be focused. Again the consensus from coaches, parents and kids was that these sessions were well worth it!

The season got underway in May and as can be expected, there were some growing pains with the pitching. As the season progressed, the players quickly began to develop and this showed in very close games being played by all teams. We had an excellent group of coaches (many longtime Bloordale coaches) and this made for good collaboration and support with field maintenance and ensuring the players had a great experience. Many of our games had to be postponed due to rain and we attempted the best that we could to drain the field to allow it to dry so that we minimized cancelled games. CLR was our regular season champion based on winning percentage as the teams were very close in the standings.

We started a summer drop-in program and had very good attendance each with 15 players on average. This could not be done without the dedication of the coaches, specifically Rob Lowe, Andrew Joseph, Joe Fong, Trevor Martin and Rod Haskins as the main coaches. These clinics ran right until the end of August.

The play-offs commenced in September and with Labor Day a week later than usual, it posed some challenges to get the games in before the end of the month. We played a four game round robin with the top two teams playing for the championship. This was different than the double-knock out format from the previous year. Given that the players were returning from a summer break, we wanted to give the players an opportunity to play at least 4 games in September. The field conditions had us move a few games to Millwood 1, which the players and coaches enjoyed tremendously. It also allowed us to play longer games under the lights and darkness became a factor.

The finals saw McBride vs. ProTeach in a matchup of the teams that had a high composition of Major Mosquito players. The teams played a great championship game and the high level of play was noticed by all that attended the game.

### **Comments/Suggestions:**

- As we are all aware, Millwood 2 does not drain well. As a result a lot of games were cancelled because the field was unplayable. Kudos to all the parents and coaches that helped to make the field playable whenever possible. We found that using a pump to take off the excess water allowed the field to dry quicker.
- Registration process – we would suggest that the prior year's requests in the database be cleared so that the 2016 registration has new requests only. Also, we would suggest that the policy be to try to accommodate one player request (a mutual request). There was one despondent parent at the beginning of the year (she did have two requests met) but by the end of the year, she seemed very happy with her son's season at Bloordale.
- Player assessment pre-season – we should consider having the pitching clinic double as a 1st year player assessment which would help in the team allocations.

A very BIG THANK YOU to Cecilia Fulton for scheduling and rescheduling and rescheduling the umpires as a result of the many "rainouts". Thanks to Patrick and Wendy for the extra support with the first year learning curves of being Convener. Thanks to Paul for the equipment support and the exec team for all of their hard work.

### **4.iv. PEEWEE**

**Convener Nicole Kreutzberg** – verbal report.

### **4.v. BANTAM**

**Convener Brian Moore**

The Bloordale Bantam division had 29 players born in 2000 or 2001, divided over two teams. Once again, Bloordale played an interlock schedule with Royal York, who fielded four teams.

Bloordale team B1 (coached by Nato Rizzotto) was the regular season Bloordale league champions, finishing second overall in the interlock standings. Regular season games, both between the two Bloordale teams, and with Royal York, were almost always fun and competitive.

In the playoffs, the best 3 of 5 Bloordale final went to a close and exciting fifth game, which was won by team B2 (coached by Adrian Greenaway). Unfortunately, Bloordale lost 2-0 to Royal York in the interlock championship, regrettably forfeiting the second game due to insufficient players.

The interlock with Royal York continues to be generally successful, providing teams from both leagues with a wider field of competition. The biggest issue continues to be the participation of select players. In 2014 Bloordale did not have a select team, while Royal York had two. In 2015 the situation was reversed, as Bloordale had a very competitive select team, and Royal York select players were given the option of not playing house league. In both years, special rules in put in place to help ease the inequity of the competitive imbalance. However, the participation of select players at this age level will continue to be a point of discussion in Bloordale, as well as other leagues. The ideal solution would be a level playing field for both Bloordale and Royal York.

Declining enrolment is also a concern. As of the latest executive meeting, options were discussed to help address the general problem of declining player house league registration across Etobicoke.

Despite these issues, the players who played Bloordale Baseball had fun again 2015. Thank you to all the sponsors and coaches for making this possible.

#### **4.vi. LADIES SLO-PITCH DIVISION REPORT**

**Convenors Jamie Smith & Ava Gorecki**

A meeting was held at the start off the season with the majority of the coaches and me to discuss rules and other concerns.

We had four teams this year with the majority of our teams having a least 17 players per team except 1 team that had 15 players. We did not schedule games on long weekends this year.

Our final game was played by Runners Up and Special Brew at Eringate with Special Brew taking home the Trophy. A big Thank you to Stephen Poirier for allowing us to use Eringate this season.

The Ladies held their banquet at Canadiana and it was hosted by the Special Brew team. We went back to having the team pictures done and had great feedback. We were unable to make up a few games this year due to rain and lack of full team availability which created some frustration among a group of players.

Going forward for next year to resolve future problems it is suggested that 2 additional slots be made available on a Wed. in August for potential make up games.

Patrick was able to secure us diamonds at Broadacres and Nielson. The Nielson diamond was a fantastic field to play on and was given great reviews throughout the season however the city diamond at Broadacres had a few safety concerns and was not maintained as well as it was in the past.

##### **Changes for next year:**

- All players MUST be registered on Thruva prior to the start of the season cutoff date to be established and enforced.
- Continue to find better and safer diamonds to play on.
- New bases.
- Two Wednesday games scheduled in August in case of make up games due to rain outs.
- Possible use of helmets while batting.
- More advertising for the 2016 season.
- Left over banquet money to be used along with league funds to purchase new bats to be discussed at the budget meeting.
- Teams not to exceed 15 players.

#### **5. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

No proposed amendments.

## 6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE

### 2016 PROPOSED SLATE

President – Wendy Kudeba  
Vice-President – no nominees  
Past President – Patrick McConnell  
Secretary – Jamie Smith  
Treasurer – Brian Walsh  
Registrar – Mike Giorno  
Director, Sponsorship – no nominees  
Director, Equipment Purchasing – Paul MacLeod  
Umpire in Chief – Cecilia Fulton  
Director, Skills Development – Trevor Pardy  
Director, Photography – Atul Marathe  
Director, Rep Division – Naeem Siddiq  
Director, Select Division – Patrick McConnell  
Director at Large – Brent Neidbala  
Director at Large – Joe Smith

### DIVISION CONVENORS

Tball Convenor - Vacant  
Rookie Convenor - Vacant  
Mosquito Convenor – Vacant  
Peewee Convenor – Nicole Kreuzberg  
Bantam/Midget Convenor – Brian Moore  
Ladies Division Representatives – Jamie Smith & Ava Gorecki

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

## 8. ADJOURNMENT