



MARCH BOARD MEETING MARCH 15, 2011

President Neal Krauss called the March Board meeting to order at 1804.

Those in attendance: Neal Krauss Mark VanderMeulen
 Andy Ketterson Aimee Guzman-Jones
 Lisa Leary Mark Stinson
 Molly Howell Rick Murcek
 Kirk Hutton Shawn Spencer
 Jodi Kozol

Absent:

Old Business:

There was a change to last month's minutes regarding Kearney's teams being A level, not Select level. Aimee Guzman-Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as written with the above change, second by Kirk Hutton. All in favor, none opposed.

Bruce Orehek from Scheels came to talk to us about what Scheels can do for OHC. He introduced himself as the new shop manager for the hockey department. He said he is trying to get more stuff in that we need and would like to know if there is something specific that he can get for us. He said that he does have a Community Board hanging in the store with the open skate times, HS stats, etc. He also wanted us to know that there is a conference room in the basement of Scheels that we could use for meetings, etc. It has a projector and video equipment. One concern that was brought up was new players and their families getting taken advantage of for the sake of profit. Bruce assured us that he is working on getting all of the sales people trained on what new players need.

The Annual Board Meeting is scheduled for April 19th, 2011 at 1830 at DJ's Dugout. OHC will provide snacks and pop. Adult beverages or other food will be up to the individuals to purchase. There will be bio's posted on our website for all those who are running for various positions.

There was discussion on which awards to keep and which ones to get rid off. The Gladiator side did not have any awards that they gave yearly, so we will review the ones that O.M.A.H.A. had and see which ones to continue:

- Central States Award – **Nope**, no longer with Central States
- **Daryl Loomis Squirt House player of the Year** – **Yes**
 - Darrell & Sherrie Loomis dedicated many hours, sponsorship funds, printing donations, art layouts, etc for our hockey organization. Darrell held numerous offices on the O.M.A.H.A. Board, he had the “never said no when asked to help attitude!” Their son, Jimmy played as a travel goalie all the way through his High School years. Approximately October 1974, Darrell was diagnosed with cancer. After many treatments in Omaha, Texas, and several other states, he passed away. Darrell was 32 years old at the time of his death. Jimmy was a squirt aged player the year his father passed away. His many hockey friends wanted to do something for him. Something that would help him to remember his time playing hockey in the years to come. Thus the “Darrell Loomis Trophy” was purchased with the intention of being a traveling trophy to be awarded to a squirt player each year. The player gets a plaque.
- **Burt Duffy Defenseman House/Travel Player of the Year** – **Yes**
- **Janke Diesel JR Lancer MVP** – **Yes**
 - Midwest High School Player
- **John R White Volunteer Award non-Board Member** – **Yes**
- **Lifetime Member Award** – **Yes**
 - Candidates for the life membership must have demonstrated long term support and at least ten (10) years service to O.M.A.H.A and/or Omaha Gladiators Hockey in coaching and or administrative duties. Candidates for life membership may not have a participating player eighteen (18) years old or younger and are ineligible for family membership.
- Board Member of the Year - **No**

“Try Hockey for Free” was a huge success. A big thanks to Stacy Bradley and all her volunteers. We had 247 non-USA registered participants. We were the #1 program in the nation. The #2 program had 90 participants.

There were a lot of volunteers, lots of kids. We had a local printing company that donated the posters and valentines. Stacy will get Jodi a list of volunteers to be put in the newsletter. We won 40 new Reebok helmets and gloves (a \$4800 value), and we get to choose the sizes.

Treasurer – Mark VanderMeulen:

Right now mostly working on the end of the year stuff. Handed out P&L for May 1, 2010 through March 14, 2011 and the Balance Sheet as of March 14, 2011.

Travel - We need to have all final check requests turned in. We should be able to close out all teams, but Bantam AA who is going to Nationals. Rick will send an e-mail out to all team manager letting them know to submit anything they have left. Every team, with

the exception of Bantam A2 should get a small credit. Should be able to close the books on all teams, but Bantam AA, by March 28th.

Midwest HS – Mark will get an e-mail out to the coaches for their check requests. What about Senior night expenses.

Select teams – have everything that we need. After next weekend, should be able to get a summary out to all the teams.

We need to finalize March ice. Gilinda has the bill and will forward it to Mark.

One big outstanding bill we have is for the 2nd half of the jersey's from Stick and Kicks. We need to have this by April 15th.

Gilinda will get a list to Mark of all the players and their birth years. This should allow us to set the budget much closer, realistic, for each division for the next year.

Thanks to Kathy for her collection efforts. Our bank account has gone up. Surplus may be more than the \$25,000 projected, but still have outstanding expenses.

One topic brought up is about kids registering/playing this spring, summer or next season if they still owe money from this season. The kids should not be able to play or register until they are a member in good standing, which means they are paid or have payment arrangements.

This year we had 847 skaters, including AAA.

IP-Mite – Aimee Guzman-Jones:

There was some talk of having 60 kids on the ice next year. Can we do it? Ideally yes, but we are not to that point yet. We need to get the coaching down. We need to watch the kids on the ice and keep them from playing like the big kids, i.e. tripping, etc. We are looking at re-organizing for next year and reducing the number of birth years on the ice at one time. Also, looking at getting team managers for each IP/Mite team. The ADM Model and our divisions are a work in progress for us.

IP: All IP players have been evaluated for the fall season. We had Gary Cooper and Erik Johnson grade our Mite age players ('03, '04, & '05's). Michael Hughes graded the older skaters, and John Decker graded our youngest players. IP families will get an e-mail by the end of March indicating where their child will be playing in the fall.

IP finished up their year with a cross ice tournament and family skate. Each team had two hours. Players were given trophies, cookies and punch and the coaches were treated to Omaha Steaks.

IP is currently taking registrations for our Spring and Summer sessions that will begin April 12th. Numbers look good, as I have taken calls from parents who attended our “Try Hockey for Free” event, and now want to get involved.

Stacy Bradley has done a tremendous job running the program and helping families just starting out in hockey. Communication has been weekly, and only a few families are needed to be reminded to check the last e-mail for any updates. Stacy is planning on staying in IP for the time being, as we prepare families to take over the role for the future.

Stacy and I will be sitting down with the coaches to go over good and bad in the next couple of weeks to plan for next season.

I have begun communication with Tony I. concerning the older age players and how we can better prepare these kids for house league. This is important as the new rink in Ralston will bring in many older players who want to try hockey.

Mite: Mites are finishing up their season tonight with a cross ice tournament. All 10 teams will play each other, and standing are being kept. No overall #1 trophy, as each player will receive a trophy to commemorate the season.

We had a Mite Olympics event or Skills event for the non-Select players. Gary Cooper organized the on-ice event for the kids.

Our Mite Select teams did very well at Midwest. The Orange team finished 6th in the final tournament; however, while disappointing, as they possessed the skill and talent for a higher finish, it reminds us that anything can happen in finals weekend. The Black team finished 1st, which was the goal. It was a tough game, but they worked hard and finished well. The Orange team stayed to cheer the Black team in the final game, and the Black team honored them and their support with high fives from the bench.

The Mite Select program this season showed that when done together, and as one, our program can be stronger, with the support of the membership.

Squirt-Bantam – Aimee Guzman-Jones:

Squirts: NHL finals were hosted by OHC. Loretta Goodwater was the tournament director and got everything organized rather quickly once the standings and game schedule was made available. She worked the entire weekend, answering questions and helping all the teams with locker rooms and whatever. Team boxes were given to each team upon arrival. Loretta did a wonderful job, and I am glad she agreed to be the TD.

OHC White Lightning, coached by Danny Gass, won the Squirt Division. Some very good games were played by the OHC teams. The majority of the games were very close, and one game came down to a shoot out. Four games in two days proved to be a lot for these players as the final games looked like the kids were running out of gas.

We had a game misconduct in one of our games, and the player was not allowed to play in the championship game. I am happy to report that the NHL rep on site allowed the player to sit on the bench with the team. Squirts do not necessarily know what they did wrong to warrant such a call, but the league showed empathy towards the young player, and I was please with the results.

The Squirt Select teams both finished on the winning side of the finals bracket. The Orange team finished 4th and the Black team finished 2nd after an overtime and finally a shoot out. Mark Vandermuelen and his family stayed to watch the final game, as did two other families from Orange. I personally wish there would have been more support between the two teams this season, but that is something that will need to be worked on for next year. I believe a lot of animosity was created between the two teams, rather than create a unified club at this age group.

On a side note... The Bantam Select team was very supportive of the Squirt Black team and vice versa. They hung out together at the hotel, and they stayed and cheered each other on at the rink. Before one game, the Bantam team went into the locker room and gave the team a pep talk and high fived them as they went on the ice. This says a lot about the boys on the Bantam team, as sometimes it's hard to support and encourage younger teams if you don't know anyone on the team. In turn, many of the squirt players got up early, ate breakfast and ASKED to go to the rink TWO hours before their game so that they could watch the Bantams. As a parent and a Board member, I am very proud of how these players behaved. This is why we are all Jr. Lancers.

PeeWee- The NHL finals were hosted by Fremont. Lincoln won the league. There were some questionable situations which we tried to find answers to, but the hosting person in charge did not return any calls.

Our team that had a coaching change went into the NHL finals with NO WINS all season long. Their second to the last game ended in a tie. But their last game of the season...they WON. In a shoot out, no less. The coach informed me that these kids were so excited and celebrated their only win of the season like they won the Stanley Cup. Parents have been very happy with the change that was made, and the players have been asking for Coach Thompsen to come back next season. I am glad that the Board decided on this change in coaching. We did the right thing concerning these players. This change definitely kept players from quitting hockey.

Bantams: The NHL finals were hosted by Fremont, when Kearney left the league. Lincoln won the tournament. There were some frustrated parents of OHC that did not like going to Fremont to play games, and wished that OHC was hosting. After explaining the lack of ice availability, they didn't complain anymore, at least to me.

I have been told that some of our new skaters in the Bantam age group scored their first goals this past weekend. Coaches and parents are excited, as are the players. The commissioner has asked about "hat trick" patches and such. I will be figuring out exactly how we go about this with Gilinda.

The Bantam Select team finished third in the Midwest Finals. With an amazing upset over the Kansas City Stars (hadn't lost a game), the team was so fired up for the weekend; it looked as if they would be able to get to the championship game. Unfortunately, Lincoln had other plans for OHC. This group of players was very fun to watch, and many will be heading to the HS program in the fall. Oh, if only you could have heard the talk coming from these players about the HS league. Made me smile and I am excited to see them next year in HS.

I would like to meet with the coaches of each age group and see what they liked and didn't like concerning the past season. I would like to get ideas as to what we can do as a Board/club to help the House program become a stronger program. I respectfully ask the Board whether or not I should do this (as I have been talking with coaches already, but not all of them) or if we should leave this for the next Squirt-Bantam Director in April?

Girls Hockey – Andy Ketterson:

Two weekends ago we the girls got 3rd place in MN. In the NHL, they were 4th out of 11 in the Squirt division. It was a fantastic year for the team.

There is a possibility to put together a AAA team for games in April and May (pay as you go team).

We are still looking into having a slumber party, possibly at Motto. We are still looking at the cost and dates, maybe mid-April.

Andy has the registration list for last year and will work on contacting the girls. Would like to have a U16 team for next season.

High School League Commissioner – Lisa Leary:

We did not get a fireworks permit this year, but we will try again next year.

This season was a very close one and the seatings were not able to be done until after the last game.

The tournament is currently going on. There have been a lot of close games. We would like to be able to finish the season next year by March 15th. We have been having a lot of issues, which should have been expected because the season went so well.

We have had numerous complaints about the officials this year, from almost every team. Not about missed calls, but about violation of zero tolerance policy, unprofessional behavior and the statements/attitude the officials made regarding having to do with HS Club games. It seems like they do not want to be there. This creates conflict both on and off the ice. The Steering Committee wants to look at getting other officials for next year.

(Bantam A hosted Midwest and had 3 different teams compliment on the referees, as did Mites).

The Banquet arrangements are almost finalized. The attendance is looking good, should be right at about 300, if not a few more. Players and coaches will have a reduced price of \$17.50. Those who have paid the full price, will be getting a refund of \$7.50.

HS Midwest League Director – Mark Stinson:

The JV team went to the playoffs. They are a very young group compared to the other teams in their division.

Varsity will be going to Nationals next week.

One thing we need to work on for next year is having more committees and better communications between parents and coaches, not kids and coaches.

We did a good job this year with keeping expenses down. We got coaches room comp'd and they traveled together.

There is a group of parents who want to be more involved and run for Board positions.

Ice Scheduler – Molly Howell:

Molly has offered her resignation as Ice Scheduler due to personal reasons. OHC appreciates all the time that she put in to do the schedule. There were a few problems, but overall, she did a great job. For our first year, we had no ice issues to speak of or referee issues with Midwest HS. Our House players never had a month with hardly ever any ice touches.

The Board is looking at filling this position until it comes up for election in 2012. Molly said she is willing to help the new Ice Scheduler.

Travel Director – Rick Murcek:

Squirt AA – won Midwest

Squirt A – lost to Sioux City, got 2nd place.

PeeWees – struggled this year

Bantams – very strong age group

 Bantam AA – 2nd at Midwest

 Bantam A – 1st at Midwest

 Bantam A2 – competed at the A level

We are going to purchase banners for the Midwest Champions. We want them to all be the same design.

Looking at putting a Travel Committee together of 6 volunteers to run the 6 different areas that have been identified is this area. So far there are 3 volunteers.

Bantam AA is going to Nationals. It is a little different this year than last year. They have reorganized and there are 3 divisions this year and there were 4 last year.

Working on a survey for Travel parents. Looking at doing it on-line and keeping it very simple.

Receivable were very good on the travel side. There were only 3 players with issues.

Next year would like to get an earlier jump on selecting coaches and tryouts. Maybe having a Summer Try-out camp and earlier try-outs. Looking at changing the season to Sept 15-March 1.

What do we do with the contracted ice in the summer, how can we use it? We can see about putting on camps, like a goalie camp.

We will be putting on a summer camp for Squirts, PeeWees and Bantams, for both Travel and House players. Gilinda is working on the flyer. It will be a sign up and the kids will be put into teams and then play games. We would like the kids to play in the age division they will play in next year. If we do not get enough players, this is ice that we can give back. The question was brought up about IP skaters. They are recommended to skate in IP over the summer, but if they request to play at the same level they will next year, we will handle these on a case by case basis.

Omaha AAA – Kirk Hutton:

Season is over. Looking at getting volunteers for next year.

Vice President – Shawn Spencer:

Shawn will not be at the Annual meeting. These last few weeks have been very bad with parents, referees and coaches. Getting calls at all hours of the day/night. HS is in bad shape right now and needs to be brought under control. Most of the problems not with the players, but parents, coaches and refs.

One of the best things that we did this year was put the HS names on the front of the jerseys, but it was also the worst thing we did.

The Disciplinary committee was called into action quite a bit the last few weeks. Shawn tired to expedite some ruling and by doing this did not have all the information and made some bad calls. His recommendation is not to do this next year. He suggests that there are no emergency appeals during HS finals.

Shawn is retiring from OHC, Midwest Hockey and hockey all together. OHC would like to give Shawn a big thank you for all he had done this year.

President – Neal Krauss:

The Ralston rink has been approved by the City Council for full funding of 2 sheets of ice. On May 16th it goes to the people for a vote. It will not be open until the 2012-2013 season. (Hopefully Fremont will stay open next year.) March Wehner, a member of the Ralston JC's, said that the JC's will be having a meeting with the Ralston mayor on 3/24/11. There are issues with the ballots and wording. Mark will get with Neal after the meeting.

The Board will be having a debriefing meeting on Sunday, 4/3/11, midmorning for 4-5 hours to review the good, bad and ugly of the last year.

New Business:

Stacy Bradley brought up the need for a USA Hockey suggested position of "Local Association Growth Coordinator/Director". She suggests that this should be a separate Board position.

There was much discussion about this. At this time, many believe that we have too many Board members? Hard to ask the membership to add another Board position after only 1 year. It is only one month until the Annual Board Meeting, which is when any changes to the By-laws would need to be made.

This is not a position that should fall under the IP-Mite Director, that Director is too busy as it is. This USA Hockey Coordinator position is geared mostly to the 4-8 year olds. However, we could adjust this so it is also geared to the older kids.

Mark Stinson suggests that we have this an appointed position (for 1 year), not a voted on position until we see how this position works and what it brings in. Mark Stinson made a motion that we have a volunteer position, non-Board position, for the Association Growth/Retention Coordinator. Rick Murcek seconds this motion. All in favor, none opposed. We will need to develop a job description for this position. Stacy has the outline from USA Hockey and will send this to Jodi so that she can forward it to the Board. A motion was made by Neal Krauss that Stacy Bradley should be appointed to this position for the next year, starting on April 30, 2011. Shawn Spencer seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Storm Chasers were looking for non-profits to work their concessions stands. Unknown if they are still looking for groups, but Jeff Chubb will get the information for us.

Motion made by Shawn Spencer to adjourn the meeting, second by Mark Stinson. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 2035.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for your approval.

Jodi Kozol
Board Secretary