

Minutes of the CHC Board of Directors Meeting, November 25, 2008

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Before any business was undertaken, Mike Meakem asked that a moment of silence be made in observance of the recent passing of Mr. Tom Crocker, Southern Connecticut Youth Hockey's Peewee and Bantam coach and father. The Thomas J Crocker Memorial Children's Fund has been established to help Tom's family and the 1st annual Crocker Memorial Skills Competition is being held on Dec. 5 at 8PM in Milford. See the Southern YH website for further details.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except (number in parentheses indicate total absences this season including this evening): CT Clippers (2); ECHO (2); Griffin (2); New Canaan (2); Northwestern (1); Ridgefield (3); Salisbury (7); Stamford (2); Watertown (1); Wonderland Wizards (1). The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes.

Board Officers Present: President, Mike Meakem; Vice President, Jason Pniewski; Treasurer, Mike Federico; Secretary: Glenn Van Moffaert.

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; District II Commissioner, Richard Gudis; District-IV Commissioner, Glenn Van Moffaert; Women's & Girls' Hockey: Chairperson Joe Dymarczyk; Squirt Tournament Director, Thomas Regan; Midget Director: Amy Landino; Supplemental Director (Tier-4): Art Blakeslee;

USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: none.

USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: none.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

Due to Glenn's absence in October, minutes were not available for acceptance. Glenn will collect the October minutes from Katy Ludwig

REPORTS

President (Mike Meakem)

Fourteen things on Mike's agenda:

1. Still looking for a PW T-IV team to help round out the schedule.
2. Mike reported on a comparison of 2007 and 2008 CHC registrations (players registered and players claimed) at each group up through November. In 2007 the count was 9547, and today the number is 9352. If you're familiar how to construct pivot tables and such, the data output could be compiled in various ways to show changes and trends based upon each member program, age group, etc. Contact Mike if you want a copy of the compiled spreadsheet. [*post-meeting note: Mike sent an e-mail with the spreadsheet to the BOD*].
3. There have been some issues raised regarding "combined teams"; these are teams which combine elements of CHC programs with independent programs. The concern is whether non-affiliated teams are gaining an advantage by piggy-backing onto a CHC Member Program. The situation is being closely monitored.
4. Note that the NCAA Div-1 regionals are being played at Harbor Yard. Pat O'Neill gave a nice note that a good proportion of tickets (approx. 1800) were used by Youth Hockey programs!
5. Mike has a supply of UCONN Hockey tickets for their game versus Bentley College. See Mike if you want any of these tix. Caveat --- no high-school age players are to receive these tickets.
6. Bad Publicity --- now grandparents are causing a stir! It cannot be overstated, that NO ONE should be overstressed when watching their children, or grandchildren play hockey.

7. Segue – coaches’ conduct: if it wasn’t bad enough that grandparents are behaving badly, it still is an apparent problem that Coaches are not being good role models. Coaches’ emotions must be held in check. Emotional outburst is a type of behavior that gets noticed by everyone, and eventually ends up in the ladder with USA-H. Let’s reiterate: CHC can and WILL TAKE ACTION against coaches poor behavior” profanity, for example, is NOT allowed! Coaches should also know the rules and consequences of violating them. For instance which coach is not aware that they cannot play a player who was issued a Game Misconduct, or which coach is not aware that they prohibited from the use of non-rostered players, or players rostered on another team!
8. Be on the lookout next month as USA-Hockey’s monthly magazine may have an article on CHC!
9. Roster Management is a challenging thing, and some size issues are posing a daunting task for Kathy and Mike to administer. The situations are being controlled and any “concessions” to player movement rules is being made with sensitivity to each situation. Since High School practices begin on Dec. 1, more roster challenges are expected.
10. Mike has appointed the Committee to Revitalize Hockey. In an e-mail dated 10-29, Mike informed everyone on the mission of this Committee (to incubate ideas to improve and revitalize hockey in CT) and its members: Avon - Rob Arena; Enfield - Shawn Sniffin; ECHO - Brian Oatway; CT Northern Lights - Ken Dixon; Darien - Jason Pniewski; Western - Tom Harrison; Greater New Haven - David Thibault; CHC - Mike Meakem & Kathy Ludwig. Reporting out from the Committee, Mike noted these 5 main points: Redefine MT hockey; Rebuild in-house programs; shorten the season (more practice fewer games); prepare an analysis on player Releases; and modify CHC Roster management Rules. The next meeting of the Committee is Dec 4.
11. Newsletters continue to serve our community well as a communication device. Next one will focus on SAFETY.
12. Beware--- the Midget hockey program known as “BAR-Z” is just free for all hockey! Don’t let this become an unmanageable situation.
13. Reporting of Game misconduct/Match penalties is being made as they occur through timely notice of referee’s reports to each of the district commissioners. Compiling of the data is being made and presented through a spreadsheet available on the CHC website. There was discussion regarding the concern over its appropriate use, and whether there are privacy interests that need to be more thoroughly considered. The consensus of the BOD was to keep the list current, but populate names by only Last Name and First Initial.
14. Locker room thefts. Sadly, beware that thievery from the locker rooms is not only from outsiders and common criminals, but is also made among players. Stealing is a crime, and when the culprits are discovered, retribution should be swift and significant.

Vice President (Jason Pniewski) No news to report.

Treasurer (Mike Federico)

Mike did not have a handout detailing the current balance sheet and Profit & Loss statement available. however he did report that the CHC has a high cash balalnce principally due to the influx of tournament fees. However, a couple of programs need to see Mike. Mike has also settled out the Form 990 issues. And on another positive note, although the amount is not yet declared, there is a settlement from the outstanding embezzlement legal action taken by CHC. It is anticipated that CHC will receive, after fees, about \$100,000 as returned monies. Any questions regarding the P&L can be directed to Mike.

Grow the Game: In Ken Dixon’s absence, Mike Meakem spoke about the recent webinar meeting and the discussion regarding CT Hockey Day on January 10, 2009. CT Hockey will be hosting a free play hockey

hour from 11am until noon at about a dozen rinks across the state for boys and girls aged four through eight years old. Funding of the campaign is made by One Goal to the tune of about \$25,000.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

Coaches screening is mandated, and the waiver to permit screening is found on the web. There may be a slight increase in the fee this year (tbd). PLEASE ensure that your coaches go through this screening process.

The Eligibility Committee does have a “long-arm” for enforcement. Not only can it upgrade certain penalty situations (like GM to Match), but it can also enforce “end-of-season” penalties. Midgets think that they are immune from consequence, but a serious penalty situation WILL follow them wherever they may land within USA-H.

The District Commissioners report that all is NOT quiet:

Dst-II: Rich reported that 69 weeks of suspensions were doled out to various players, and another 7 weeks were imposed upon coaches.

Dst-IV: Glenn had no match penalties to report, however, it is disturbing to see multiple GM issued in one game. .

Girls (Joe Dymarczyk)

Dates for the 2009 Yankee Conference Festival Tryouts can be found on the NE-District website: <http://www.newhockey.org/>

Tournament Committee

PeeWee (Rich Dibble): Score sheets need to be filled out properly, PLEASE!

Midgets (Amy Landino) Enough said – BAR-Z.

Tier-4 (Art Blakeslee) Proposals to host a T-4 tournament are due today. One weekend appears to remain without a host: February 22. A decision on the host arrangements will be made before the December monthly meeting..

Team-CT: 186 players were involved in the tryouts for Birth Year 92 (54 players), BY-93 (56) and BY-94 (76). Decisions will be announced in February.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn (seconded) passed by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 16, 2008
7:30pm
Italian American Club
35 Chase Lane, West Haven.

NOTE –DEC 16 is the THIRD TUESDAY of the month!!!

/Attachment #1 to November 2008 minutes
Attendance Log

Program	Total Absences	Annual Meeting April 2008	May	June	August Presidents' Meeting	September	October	November
Avon	0							
Central	1			X				
CT Clippers	2					X		X
CT Northern Lights	0							
CT Polar Bears	0							
CT Wolves	3	X			X		X	
Darien	1					X		
East Haven	2			X		X		
ECHO	2	X						X
Enfield	2	X		X				
Gr. Bridgeport	0							
Gr. New Haven	0							
Greenwich Blues	1				X			
Greenwich Skate	2	X				X		
Griffin	2				X			X
Hamden	2	X				X		
Kent	1					X		
Middlesex	1			X				
Mid-Fairfield	0							
New Canaan	2				X			X
Northeastern	2	X			X			
Northwestern	1							X
Pawling	0							
Ridgefield	3	X				X		X
Salisbury (8)	7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Simsbury	1	X						
South Windsor	0							
Southeastern	0							
Southern	1	X						
Stamford	2	X						X
Wallingford	1	X						
Watertown	1							X
West Hartford	2	X					X	
West Haven	1				X			
Western	0							
Wonderland Wizards	1							X
Yale	0							