

**DBYS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

The DBYS February 2010 monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, February 23rd, beginning at 7:00 PM, in the Amity Intermediate Center cafeteria. The following DBYS Board members were present: *Mike Dekker, Traci Huddleson, Brian DeMild, Camille Hayes and Dean Dinnocenti.*

League members also in attendance included: *Ben Marchese, Greg Whelan, Mike Andre, Harvey Pickell, Dave Guadagno, Steve Williams, Rob Kurtz, Brian Linsenbigler, Tom Heffner, Charlie Nelson, CJ Ehlinger, Jon Dabney, Karl Degenhart, Jeff Goodrich, Barry Lacey, Kevin Hilbert, Jeff Conkle, Charlie Baer, Tony Tucci, Kevin Spitko, John Piccareta, Tom Cote, Jay Hall, Steve Criblear, Amber Ortiz, Jen Corley, Simon Cymbalski, Dan Brown, Chris Hollis, Ted Trombley, Randy Yenser, and Bob Zamichelli*

*\*Our apologies for any omissions – a sign up sheet was unintentionally not circulated.*

- Call To Order:** President Mike Dekker called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
- Secretary's Report:** Tom Cote made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the January 2010 meeting. Mike Andre seconded the motion. All meeting minutes can be found online at: <http://dbys.baberuthonline.com>.
- Treasurer's Report:** Brian DeMild presented the following Treasurer's report (as of January 31st, 2009).

Checking Account:	\$ 48,778.00
Money Market Account:	\$ 6,974.00
Petty Cash:	\$ 200.00
<b>Total Bank Acct Bal:</b>	<b>\$ 55,952.60</b>

Brian noted that two insurance premiums will be paid this month. He also thanked Harvey Pickell for a \$250.00 donation made towards our Buddy Ball program and added that the High School team is also donating to Buddy Ball. Brian explained the traditional periods of financial highs and lows of the league. Mike added that our finances are always an "open book" for anyone who wishes to see them.

The Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion from Mike Andre and seconded by Brian Linsenbigler.

- Softball/Buddy Ball Report:** Softball Director Traci Huddleson reported that evaluations for 10U and 12U are officially completed, the coaches and commissioners for 8U, 10U and 12U are all set, and very successful indoor clinics have taken place and will be on going throughout the months of February and March.

Softball members in attendance at the earlier meeting voted on and approved a new call up policy for the 8U program, approved nominated division commissioners, voted to create two 12U teams with the 16 girls registered (8 per team) - allowing them intra-team play (as well as allowing call-ups from the 10A team when needed).

Tom Cote will once again help with practice and game scheduling/logistics.

Dori Nugent will continue to run pitching clinics for the 10 and 12U girls over the next two Saturdays, beginning this upcoming Saturday, 2/27. We'll have additional gym/clinic time for the next four Saturday mornings, starting this Saturday – 2/27 – from 9:00 to 10:30. Traci suggested that we use the gym time for clinics or for coaches to hold in-door team practices. All coaches agreed to work together to share the available gym time.

**Sponsorships/Fundraisers:** We have five volunteers who offered to assist with sponsorships for the 2010 season. Ultimately, we'd like to have at least five more folks assist with contacting our current sponsors and reaching out to potentially new sponsors. Mike again asked for volunteers to assist and for everyone to spread the word to any interested party/parties.

**Field/Equipment Updates:** All field and equipment issues were reviewed and addressed. We are looking to order two new pitching machines – one softball machine and one baseball machine. Our goal is to eventually have a machine at Hill Road for use as well.

We need to change the locks on all of the snack bars and possibly the sheds – go with a “one key fits all” system. The Township also needs copies of all new snack bar keys. CJ Ehlinger offered his assistance on this initiative.

**Spring Registration:** Registration for the Spring 2010 baseball and softball seasons officially closed as of 1/31/10. We had a great response and project the following:

**SOFTBALL:**

**8U – 6 teams**

**10U – 5 teams**

**12U – 2 teams**

**18U – 2 shy of a team – hoping we can get there**

**BASEBALL:**

**T-ball – 10 teams of 11 players**

**Rookie – 9 teams of 11-12 players**

**Minors – 12 teams of 11-12 players**

**Majors – 7 teams of 11-12 players**

Mike advised everyone that the revised rules in effect for the 2010 season are now posted in the Document Center of our website. Mike asked that all coaches review the changes since there were some major changes to the pitching and pitch count rules.

**Important Dates:** DBYS has secured the AIC gym every Saturday, from now until March 27<sup>th</sup> – from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Our tentative plans for this gym time includes:

**February 27<sup>th</sup>: Softball**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>: Major Evaluations**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>: Minor Evaluations**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>: Rookie Evaluations (ICA gym)**

**March 20<sup>th</sup>: TBA\***

**March 27<sup>th</sup>: TBA\***

*\*DBHS baseball and softball coaching staffs to run "Coaches Clinics" for our volunteer coaches! More information on those clinics as we finalize those plans, dates and times.*

Weather permitting, field clean-up days are scheduled for Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> with a mandatory coaches meeting before each day.

April 10<sup>th</sup> is Opening Day at Hill Road. Pictures are scheduled for this day as well.

Buddy Ball and make-up picture day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Township Fields.

**Tournament Dates:**

Mike reviewed the following upcoming tournament dates that DBYS will host in 2010:

- **June 25<sup>th</sup>: Districts: Will host either 8U, 10U or 12U**
- **July 9<sup>th</sup>: Districts: Will host either 9U or 11U**
- **July 9<sup>th</sup>: 14U Softball Tournament (tentative) at Township**
- **July 16<sup>th</sup>: States: 10U Host**
- **July 23<sup>rd</sup>: States: Will host either 9U or 11U**

Mike also announced the following dates and locations of the 2010 State Baseball Tournaments (Districts is yet TBD):

- **8U: Open**
- **9U: BYS**
- **10U: DBYS**
- **11U: Audubon**
- **12U: Spring-Ford**

These dates are currently posted on our league website:  
<http://dbys.baberuthonline.com>.

**Committees/Commissioners:** Nominations and votes were taken for baseball division commissioners. The results were as follows:

**T-ball Commissioner: Greg Whelan**, nominated, seconded and voted in by the general membership – accepted by Greg.

**Rookie Ball Commissioners: Brian Linsenbigler and Randy Yenser**, nominated, seconded and voted in by the general membership – accepted by Brian and Randy to serve as co-Commissioners!

**Minor League Commissioner: Ben Marchese**, nominated, seconded and voted in by the general membership – accepted by Ben.

**Major League Commissioner: Jeff Goodrich**, nominated, seconded and voted in by the general membership – accepted by Jeff.

We still need chairpersons and members for the following committees:

- Field Director
- Sponsorships
- Uniforms: chairpersons in place, volunteers still needed
- Opening Day
- Snack Bar: Reno's?
- Tournament Director

Mike asked that anyone interested in volunteering let him, or any member of the Board know.

**New Business:**

Mike read the suggested “guideline” changes for the 2010 season. At the vote and approval of the general membership, the following changes were made:

**Guidelines for Calling Up Players:**

- Players can only be called up when a team has 9 or less players for a game.
- Only players who will be age eligible to move up in the coming year will be allowed to be “called up”.
- Each team must submit 3-4 names of players they see moving up in the coming year to the Division Commissioner.
- Commissioner will allocate kids to the teams (brothers and sisters to stay on same team).
- Each team will have 3-4 players to call up.

**Team Selection/Draft Procedures:**

- 1-2 Board members will attend each draft to oversee and moderate; preferably a board member without a child in the particular draft that he/she attends.
- Coaches allowed two assistants – ensuring coverage for practices and games when the head coach cannot attend or will be late.

**Scheduling and Other:**

- T-ball will be split into two divisions (4-6-year old 1<sup>st</sup> time players' division; returning player division) – as long as the numbers allow this.
- T-ball season to end in accordance with the end of the school year.
- All parents must be made aware of who their Division Commissioner is and have his/her contact information. After the coach, the next person a parent should contact with questions or concerns is the Division Commissioner.

Mike led the 2<sup>nd</sup> vote for the addition/addendum to one of our current by-laws. The by-law, labeled Article III, Section 2, currently reads:

***“Officers are nominated at the May and June meetings. They are voted on with a majority vote, which takes place at the June meeting. An officer’s term is for a two-year period.”***

Mike motioned to add the following to the by-law:

***“The newly elected board will transition working in conjunction with the existing board, until August 1<sup>st</sup>. The newly elected board’s two year term will officially begin August 1<sup>st</sup>.”***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> vote to approve this by-law addendum was unanimous. One more vote is needed to make the by-law change. That will be done at our next meeting.

**VERY IMPORTANT**: Nominations for 2010 Tournament Team coaches will take place at the March meeting! If you or anyone you know is interested in coaching a tournament team this year, please come to the meeting! While nominees do not need to be present at the meeting, they must be first nominated and then accept the nomination in order to be considered a candidate for the coaching position.

**BYS/DBYS Merger Update**: Cal Ripken State Commissioner Tony Tucci was present and discussed his frustration with our two leagues not being able to come to resolution on some players currently “in limbo” as to who to play with for the 2010 season. DBYS has suggested grandfathering kids who’ve played in our league for years – but BYS will not respond to that suggestion. After being presented with a short list of players in question and the letter sent to these players by the BYS board, Tony decided to give BYS until 2/28/10 to resolve. He indicated that if not resolved by BYS by that date, he – as Cal Ripken State Commissioner – would have no choice but to open the boundaries for all players and let kids play for whatever league they wanted. Tony will follow-up with Mike by the 2/28 date.

**12U Diamond League Team**: Along with the help of Tony Tucci, Charlie Baer talked the general membership through the idea of creating a Diamond League team, made up of 12-year olds, to play together all season long – specifically playing in weekly tournaments or against other Diamond League teams – rather than playing in-house rec ball. Several issues regarding the Diamond League team were raised, including: how the players were notified of tryouts, who would be coaching and selecting the players, how this would affect our 12U – and other in-house tournament teams, how this would affect the development of other players remaining in the rec league, what fields would this team play on, what resources DBYS would need to back the team, etc.

As of today, the Diamond League team is forming under the Daniel Boone Coaches Association umbrella. It is a school-based league (anyone in the Daniel Boone school district can try out for the team) overseen ultimately by the Berks City/County League. If this team continues to form under the umbrella of the DB Coaches Association, practices and games will be held at the MS fields – no DBYS resources will be used or affected.

While league members debated the pros and cons of having a Diamond League team, Mike suggested that DBYS actually oversee the team, vs. the DB Coaches Association. He provided several supporting reasons for having the team fall under the umbrella of DBYS. Tony Tucci, head of the DB Coaches Association, was willing to let the Diamond League Team form under the DBYS umbrella vs. the DB Coaches Association, but then indicated that the team would practice at Hill Road vs. the MS. Members of the league were split over the decision to do this, for all the reasons previously mentioned and more.

A motion by Harvey Pickell was made to table the idea of allowing the Diamond League Team to form under the DBYS umbrella until more information about the team and it's overall impact on the kids and DBYS could be addressed. Jen Corley seconded the motion, which was then voted on and approved by the general membership. Mike will set up a special meeting in the next few weeks to have the general membership revisit and discuss this suggested proposal.

**Next Meeting:**

Our March meeting is scheduled for *Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, in the AIC cafeteria*. The Softball portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 PM, with the general meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.