

HURL Annual General Meeting Agenda  
June 28, 2004

1. approval of agenda
2. approval of minutes of November 12, 2003 membership meeting
3. presentation of 2003-2004 annual report
4. presentation of 2003-2004 financials
5. presentation of 2004-2005 business plan
6. appointment of auditors
7. presentation, discussion, and vote on special resolution
8. presentation of HURL committees and officers
9. election of next HURL executive
10. presentation of 2004 summer league status
11. request for feedback from the membership on summer league
  - getting teams to play on other nights
  - ranking players for access to divisions
12. any other business

Total attendance: 32 members (including the directors) at the start of the meeting. Others arrived during the meeting

Directors in attendance: Peter Lewis (meeting chair), Todd MacAulay, Mike McAllister, Paul Reed, and Kandace Terris

Meeting convened: June 28, 2004, 7:25pm

1. Approval of agenda

- The directors were introduced.
- Peter Lewis presented the agenda to the membership. Jason Sweeney moved to approve the agenda. Rob McLeod seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

2. Approval of November 12, 2003 membership meeting

- The minutes of the November 12, 2003 membership meeting were distributed by e-mail and appeared on the HURL web site for the membership to review
- Jason Sweeney moved that we approve the minutes. Paul Reed seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

3. Annual report

- Kandace Terris presented the 2003-2004 annual report (ending April 30, 2004). Copies of the report were made available to the membership at the meeting. The report items included
  - League statistics
  - The 2003-2004 business plan

- The accomplishments since the last AGM relative to the priorities in the business plan.
- The primary goal not attained was the registration with Sport Nova Scotia. Registration required that HURL be a registered non-profit society, which took time to complete.
- The growth of the league has had the directors build more infrastructure into the society, including more use of league convenors and sub-committees.
- The directors extended their thanks to the league convenors and to individuals who had been helping with promotion, growth, and development (Jenna Shelley, Emma Burns, Mandy Wintink, Rob McLeod, Mark Beasy, and Chris Dabrowski); beginner clinics (Jacky Li and Rob McLeod); volunteer events such as the Great Big Graught, Sunlight PlayDay, 24 hour relay, and girl guide day; IT crew (Jason Sweeney); and all the team captains who took on additional duties to help manage the league teams.
- Some directors met with other league coordinators while they were at Nationals to learn from their experience as we manage our society and its growth. There has also been an ongoing discussion with the other Maritime groups to coordinate rules for Regionals.
- Fees this year were split into membership and field fees.
- The directors sold both discs and jerseys as a service to the membership.
- The fall 2003 season were held on the Mainland Commons fields. We had hoped to get the fields for the summer 2004 season, but they could not be secured.
- The winter 2004 season was moved to the Stadacona base. Feedback indicated that this was a positive step from the gym at Dal.
- The AGM was moved from the fall to the summer with the expectation that we would have a bigger draw of people to be directors and to allow for an overlap between the incoming and outgoing directors, which could provide the incoming directors with a training period.
- The directors and other players have been looking into hosting Nationals in Halifax, possibly in conjunction with folk in Moncton.
- While growth remains a long term priority, we have hit the limit of field space available to us in Halifax. There is also some resistance from teams to play on other nights of the week, which limits which nights we can schedule games on.

#### 4. 2003-2004 financials

- Ed Fong presented the 2003-2004 financial statements to the memberships.
- The financial statements will not be posted on the web site since it isn't deemed to be public information. The statements can be viewed by any HURL members on request to the directors.
- Ed Fong detailed the finances of HURL, indicating that the league netted a significant profit for the year (see financial statements for details). The statements exclude the summer 2004 income and costs.
- The league has not paid HST to date. The law requires us to collect HST if our year income exceeds \$50,000. We may attain this level. Consequently, the directors have begun the process of registering for an HST number and will

charge HST in the future. The HST number will also allow us to reclaim HST charged to us on field rentals by the city.

- Since the league is a non-profit society, it does not have to file income tax, provided that profit earned is earmarked for a specific long-term goal of the society. If there is no such goal then it does have to file for income tax.
- Discussion ensued on how we made such a significant profit in the year. The result is from several sources. First, there are assumptions that were made:
  - We could not predict the growth (or shrinkage) of the league so we used the previous year's size as a base.
  - We had planned on obtaining space on the Mainland Commons for league games. These fields are considerably more expensive than the regular grass fields.
  - We were given the mandate at the previous AGM to start planning for a field purchase by the society.

These assumptions needed to be made in the February – April time frame when the summer fields were applied for and the summer league was being planned.

Relative to these assumptions:

- The league grew considerably, bringing in more teams and players than anticipated
- The city continually delayed letting us onto the Mainland Commons until they finally said that we could not have fields for the summer 2003 league.
- The directors planned for a \$5000 profit in its budget to go towards field acquisitions.

In addition, the directors needed to plan for the full costs of the league and then worked to obtain discounted costs for certain items, notably

- A low cost for web hosting (estimates from a company offering us services indicated a cost of \$1500 for the current type of service)
- Discounts on field costs from the city since we were being diligent in keeping players off the fields when the fields were closed.

These discounted costs cannot be counted upon for the future.

## 5. 2004-2005 business plan

- The 2004-2005 business plan was distributed to the membership and was presented to the membership by Kandace Terris. The business plan (but not the proposed budget) were-mailed to the membership with the AGM announcement and were available on the HURL web site.
- The proposed business priorities were similar to those of the past year. The business plan also contained a budget for the upcoming year, planning for the summer, fall, and winter leagues together. The proposed budget is based on a “no-change” assumption in the fees, memberships, and other factors, but excludes a continuation of jersey sales.
- The directors have discussed sponsorship for touring teams. HURL has not done so in the past. Other leagues have done so in exchange for the touring teams rendering services to the league, such as throwing clinics.

- The membership asked where their input can be included in the business plan since this AGM agenda item is only informational. Peter Lewis indicated that the business plan exists to give the directors guidance and evolve as the year progresses. The members can give their opinions to the directors at any time, especially to the incoming board of directors.

## 6. Appointment of auditors

The directors have appointed Price-Waterhouse-Cooper to audit our financial statements. The directors are getting the paperwork done for starting the audit. An annual audit of the financial statements is a requirement for registering as a society and appears in the HURL by-laws.

## 7. Special resolution

- Paul Reed read the special resolution to the membership. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS:

(a) The Members present at the 2003 fall meeting and previous membership meetings of HURL, mandated the HURL Directors to pursue the acquisition and development of HURL owned ultimate fields;

AND WHEREAS:

(b) The proposed means for the acquisition of such fields were past funds collected by HURL that were not used to carry on the ongoing operations of HURL, and the initiation of a growth fund designated for field acquisition and development;

AND WHEREAS:

(c) The current HURL Directors have been budgeting so as to increase monies in the growth fund and have been exploring avenues for HURL acquisition and development of fields.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

(1) Any funds obtained by HURL that are not required for the ongoing operations of HURL, or for unforeseen expenses, continued to be accumulated in a growth fund for the purposes of acquisition and development of HURL owned ultimate fields;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

(2) Future HURL Directors shall continue to budget to increase monies in the growth fund and to explore avenues with an aim of fulfilling the mandated goal of acquisition and development of HURL owned ultimate fields.

- The motion comes from a directive from the 2003 AGM for the directors to plan for acquiring and developing fields for the society. It also sets a purpose for the funds that the society current holds and for future profits of the society.
- Discussion of the resolution ensued. The main points (and answers) are
  - What is meant by growth fund and who will choose where the funds are invested?

- Until the purpose for the funds is set, we cannot determine how to best invest the capital. This resolution is the first step in being able to plan for investing our current funds and possible future profits.
  - At the last AGM, the membership voted to have the funds accumulated to date dedicated towards fields. Now that we are registered as a society, we are reinforcing this vote.
  - As a non-profit society, we are obligated to dedicate excess funds to a direction that furthers the society. This resolution sets one such direction.
- Should we place a time at which this special resolution is revisited?
  - The membership can alter the resolution with a subsequent special resolution when it so desires.
- Can we get more information on the costs of maintaining fields to check on the reasonableness of the resolution?
  - A 3<sup>rd</sup> generation turf field like the Mainland Commons costs in the order of \$1,000,000. The field acquisition committee would need to look at leveraging funds with partners to get fields like that. We could also generate revenue by renting out the fields.
  - Estimates for 4 grass fields with irrigation and no lights is \$250,000. This would still require leveraging to purchase.
  - Maintenance cost estimates are \$50,000 per year for grass fields. Turf fields would require less maintenance.
- If we commit the funds now and then need them later, such as if the league loses money in a year, can we access the funds?
  - This will depend on how we invest the funds in the future.
  - The aim is to protect the funds. Directors should be planning to at least break even each year. The current fee structure should avoid a loss to the society.
- When is it decided how much money is set aside under the resolution?
  - Planning for funds occurs when the budget for the year is formed.
  - The funds are set aside once per year at the fiscal year end.
- Does the wording force the directors to accumulate a profit each year?
  - Neither the intent nor the wording force the directors to do so. It directs the board of directors to set aside profits that are accumulated for fields. It does not direct them to make a profit nor to increase the fees to players to achieve such a profit.
- Should we modify the resolution to specify a percentage of funds or a ceiling of funds to go towards the resolution rather than all profits?
  - The profit is gauged after all operational costs of the league are accounted for and all costs for upholding the business plan are taken care of.
  - If we get discounted costs in the future then this may raise our profits above the ceiling at which point we would need to account for the profits again.

- Liane Johnson moved the special resolution as originally presented. Rob McLeod seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no votes against and with one abstention.

#### 8. Presentation of officers

- Kandace Terris presented the committee structures that have been established along with the committee memberships. The memberships currently appear on the HURL web site.
- The committees are always looking for volunteers. Contact a director if you want to join a committee.

#### 9. Election of HURL directors

- Peter Lewis issues a request for nominations to the HURL membership prior to the AGM. Four individuals accepted their nominations:
  - Paul Gorman
  - A.J. Sainsbury
  - Bruce Roosen
  - Nick Murphy
- Peter Lewis accepted a nomination that he remain a HURL director to provide continuation with the current directors.
- The floor was opened to further nominations. Two nominations were made from the floor but were declined by the nominees.
- The floor was closed to nominations. The by-laws require 5 to 7 directors; the nominees were elected to the 2004-2005 board of directors by acclamation.

#### 10. Summer league status

- Paul Reed thanked our three summer convenors (Mike Milloy, Mark Beasy, and Ning Hu).
- Both the A and C leagues grew in the 2004 summer league. We had to turn away four B division teams due to lack of space.
- League playoffs will be on August 27/28 with a format similar to last year: B division on Saturday and C division on Sunday.
- The league party will be on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The largest problem with the 2004 summer league was field space. We tried to move some teams from Thursday night to Tuesday night; only two teams were open to the idea.

#### 11. Feedback on summer league

- Thursday and Sunday nights are full. Is there any chance of getting field space on other nights?

- No. Wednesday night is the most popular night for fields and we are last in the seniority for them. We have a few fields on off nights, but they have been used for practices and clinics.
- We could get fields on Friday nights, but anticipate that few people will want to play regularly on Friday.
- Why don't we get fields in Dartmouth?
  - There are few fields in Dartmouth that would accommodate a full ultimate field. All the fields that Todd MacAulay visited are baseball diamonds that have fences in the outfield and prevent us from putting in a full field.
- It was noted that some Thursday night teams could not move to a Tuesday night game since they also played on an A division team.
- Concerns were raised that the Tuesday A division doesn't really give an "A" type of game due to the level of some players.
  - No suggestion could be given on how to set guidelines to only have "A" type players in the "A" division.
  - This is all part of the growth of the league. We don't have quite enough size yet to give tiering in all of the divisions to resolve the issue.
  - We should put the onus on informing individuals about the reasons for each division and ensuring that they sign up for the appropriate division.
  - The directors can look into having the teams compare itself with other teams for tiering.
  - It was suggested that we might have a touring division and then an A and a B division. Another suggestion was made to have an elite division above the A division. This may bring the top division down to 4 to 6 teams. No consensus arose on which way to go.
- Discussion arose as to whether the A division should return to a hat league.
- There was a problem reported with the winter league where people were playing as pick-up players every week, often not paying, and thus were getting the same if not more field time than members who had paid the regular full winter league fee.
  - The directors agreed that this was a problem. Basically, the society was relying on the honour system and on the captains and it didn't work.
  - Suggestions for a solution were proposed and discussed, including a pick-up base fee and a punch-card where pick-up players pre-paid for their games and their card was punched when they played. One of the biggest concerns was how to ensure that pick-up players who pay in advance actually get called.
  - Also, the captains are not used to handling fees at every game. If nobody else collects fees, why should one captain feel inclined to do so?

## 12. Any other business

- It was requested that future A division finals be on a weekend, just like all the other divisions.

Ramzi Mirshak moved to adjourn. Ashley Malan seconded the motion.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:03pm.

