

WSSL BOD Meeting

January 6, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John A., Dick, John Stout (Stubby)

Update On Virtual meeting with WP&R on 1/4/21 Robbi Hutton and Tyler Cobb - Ric, Dick, and Stubby.

Kiwanis field update – probably out because of conversion to girls softball field in spring. Quarterpath discussion – yes to shorter bases, recalcitrant about putting up temporary fences even at our cost. Several straw men put us as to why they do not want to do temp fence (people complain about anchors in ground and storage for temp fences) We emphasized we would incur all costs and would be responsible for putting up and taking down the fence.

They will discuss and get back to us. **Follow up virtual meeting scheduled for 1/12.** Not willing to entertain thought about placing storage box at Quarterpath. Ric will send her picture and dimensions of the box – **DONE.**

Stubby presented his “informal” discussions with the Mayor.

Stubby asked Robbi about access to [Press](#) box. Said we did not need scoreboards. Again, something they will take into consideration.

City Council meeting Thursday, 1/14 at 2pm. - Jim

Jim wants WSSL to be there. Five minutes for public comments. He said that he will present brief history of the league, and show the Channel 13 video. He asked for feedback on what we should say. Talk about growth, relationships with local companies and restaurants as well as income for fields not being used. Ben has put together fact sheet as a handout and send to Board. Update – Stubby learned that the meeting is virtual.

Only 6 Williamsburg residents play in the league. The Mayor seems open minded about keeping good relationships with WSSL.

Recruiting - Dick

Committee – Stu Wolfson, Larry Rouse, and Sophie.

Suggest that he add Rich Tindall (Newport News and over 70 travel team).

Three prong approach: 1) referral program, 2) media approaches, 3) events.

Stubby put together good Power Point [slide](#) – Gazette cannot use pictures

But we can put in pictures for events in a different section.

Other ideas: Banner? Not do at WP&R fields. Other places? Church bulletins? Realtors?

Registration Update - Stubby

7 so far. Notice appeared in the Gazette today. Jim remind people in his blast email.

Sponsor Update - Dick

5 currently - expect all to return

Jim discuss relationship with Colonial Sports.

Different sponsorship levels – for now, just want to get as many as possible. Keep at \$500 level for now and friends who contribute less. When we grow enough, will assign sponsors to teams. Ben to update sponsor letter. **DONE**
John A. will approach Tidewater Orthopedics about sponsorship.

Post Office Box – John has set up. #6591 as our official address.

Player Survey – Ben

53 responses Pdf includes all answers

Competitiveness – most people are NOT as completely minded.

Toss-up between fierce competition vs having a good time.

Not many people complain about not running bases – 5 only complained.

Some did not get to play at preferred positions.

Substitute running questions – not many complaints.

Rules – ½ said that is should work well. 2/3 said only substitute runners for injuries

Not much support for managers have sub runners for competitive reasons.

Team alignment – mixed bag about what should be done

Umpires – 83% said was good; 45% want 2 umpires 22% (12 new people) willing to umpire 9 people would attend an umpire clinic. 50 people never want to umpire!

Not much support to create two divisions at this time.

Satisfaction 80% good, 20% probably return 1 person not satisfied.

Ben said he will give quick rundown at Member meeting. Will post results on Web site.

Board can access through link Ben sent.

Covid update – getting worse. We need to follow this closely.

Stubby. – Tells Ric that Team App not working on link to the Web site. **UPDATE: Ric checked and it works for him. All, please check and let Ric know if it works for you, and he will follow up.**

Coaches Meeting – John A.

Thanks to Managers for their efforts

Emphasize importance of keeping book for stats and records. Ask for volunteers for doing this. White boards working for line up. Not a replacement for book

DRAFT – not decided yet, depends on the number of players in the league. Decision to be made at a later date.

Managers did not like some of the player moves made during the season.

Managers want a say in the evaluation process – will do this.

Managers felt Assistant Manager is good idea, but they want to pick who it will be.

Want a say in the runners rule. – See below,

Rules Committee – Ric

(Mike Wells, Larry Rouse, Ed Conner, Jim Wilson and Billy Wagner)

Pass out handout for current changes recommended by the committee. Ric sent a digital copy of this before the meeting.

The handout addresses some of the issues that the Managers have, particularly with regard to substitute runner. Ric asks John to give this handout to Managers and to provide him with feedback to give to the Committee so that they can incorporate their comments. Also ask BOD to review and provide feedback. Note that this is a draft. Ric proposes new definitions: “**Substitute**” runner from home. “**Courtesy**” runners on bases. Will ask Rules Committee to incorporate this into their changes.

2021 Membership Meeting – Still shooting for Feb 2. Jim will check with JCC about using the Rec center. John can set up a Zoom meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

UPDATE: JCC NOT AVAILABLE. Jim found Williamsburg city site that we could use for \$200.

UPDATE: Changed to Wednesday, Feb 16, then postponed again. To be discussed at the meeting on Feb 2

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday, January 27, 2021 Noon. At Brickhouse

UPDATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 Noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

February 2, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John A., Dick, John Stout (Stubby)

Colonial Sports - all good (for now)

Masks will be arriving soon: 100 masks cost \$1,000. Give one to each league member \$10 for anybody who wants to buy a second one. Has WSSL logo on the mask

Jim will work with Ben to get logos to Colonial Sports for shirts. Hopefully working design will be ready by our next meeting.

New hats? Sample – mesh hat. Some like them some do not.

After some discussion, decided to go with new hats. Navy blue with patch sewn on Estimate cost app \$10/hat Anybody who does not want this hat (on who wants to purchase another one) can buy the old hat for \$18

Fields - QP, JCCRC (and field discussion)

Looks like we will play on Quarterpath (still a mess at this time)

For now, practice on Kiwanis and JCC Rec Center Go to Quarterpath when teams are set and fields are ready.

Need to set up meeting with them

Discussion of when to start – need to get City of Williamsburg waiver signed

Start season April 1 or May 1? (April through October 62 play dates)

Season should be 40 games

Will target April start date with the flexibility to start as late as May 1 (in case of Covid)

Take a break in the summer? To be decided later

No plan for night games. May take two week break during the summer.

Jim emphasize “one season” based on JCC rules. It would cost us double to play 2 seasons. If we play at Quaterpath in the City of Williamsburg, they will only charge for using the fields. No cost “per season.”

Registrations: (see chart passed out by Stubby)

40 returning players

4 new players

21 unpaid who played last year

John will reach out to people are still on the list but did not play last year. If they are not going to play this year, he will remove them from the list.

Looks like we will be the mid-sixties for number of players. We will work having 5 teams based on this estimate (app 13-15 players per team). 5th team Manager – Rich Tindall?

JCC - Warhill master plan zoom meeting 2/18 (Ric and Jim will be on the call.)

Jim asked Allister about the size of the fields they are planning to put in. We may have some input on this.

City Council and Board of Supervisors presentations:

Do not need to go for now. Will send letter and fact sheet and link to the video

Covid Update? - not much new. No changes before the end of the month

Jim cancelled 2/16 Membership meeting due to Covid restrictions.

Finances regarding sponsors

Need to get sponsors to pay up for this year

Jim propose that:

\$ from sponsors go to the Managers to buy shirts and scorebooks, etc.

\$ from members for operating budget decided by the BOD

Discussion on how to handle shirts. Managers to get on their own?

Shirts to be returned to Managers at the end of the season

Put on all sponsor logos on the shirts this year.

Suggestion that we go with Colonial Sports for now. Nothing decided.

Recruitment update - Dick

See PowerPoint presentation – work in progress.

Rather than trying to incentivize people to recruit by making monetary payment, discuss the option of providing recognition and/or maybe a lunch or some other function

Emphasize that this is “Our League” and have individuals take responsibility

Maybe have some sort of recruitment meeting.

Committee wants to focus on finalize plan to move forward.

Put together a packet to send around for people to use.

Also discuss the possibility of putting an ad in the Gazette. No one knows for sure how much this would cost but it is thought that we go do something for app. \$250.

Keep Ben in the loop to put things on the Web site.

Making fliers to circulate around town.

Need to work on a recruitment “close” to bring in the new players.

Next Day neighbor article. Suggestion that we use Tom Garcia.

Jane Giffin volunteer to be in charge of score keepers

Rules committee review – Ric

Definition for Substitute Runner and Courtesy Runner

Discuss tweaks to the latest version drafted by the Rules Committee.

Change 4.1.1 that if a player wants to have a substitute runner that this should be declared at the time of player application or in an appeal to the BOD for approval during the season if there is a change in their physical status that would merit the requirement for a substitute runner (Board recommendation).

John S. comment – we need to clarify at the next BOD meeting (Most players have already submitted their applications to play this season. I think they will need to request this in a different manner. New players are not eligible for this rule, correct?)

It should be made clear to all that this requires prior approval and will NOT be a game-day decision. It should also be emphasized that this is based on a decision by the

player and NOT the Manager. (John A. will serve as the BOD representative for this issue and he will inform the Managers of this rule). Let's see how this plays out.

Rule 5.5 Language changed so that there is not courtesy runner for the runner who will be placed on second base at the start of an extra inning game. The courtesy runner rule (Rule 8.6) will apply to a runner who reaches base after this.

Regarding the Substitute Runner Rules (Rule 8.5) – we need to tighten up some of the language. Ric will discuss this with the Committee

Regarding Courtesy Runner Rule 8.6.4, there can only be one Courtesy Runner per inning and NO carry over. It will be a use it or lose it. Also, any player can only be a courtesy runner one time per game and the “designated substitute runner” cannot also be a courtesy runner.

Stubby asked for clarification for Rule 10.4 regarding games under “Protest” Ric will interact with the committee to try to tighten this up.

Next scheduled meeting - Tuesday February 23, 2021 Noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

February 23, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John A., Dick, John Stout (Stubby)

Jim handed out new masks made by Colonial Sports

Turned out to be cheaper than previously reported (less than \$10 each. Final cost TBD)

Registrations (John S.) – summary chart handed out showing all on the list.

55 total to date 10 rookies, 16 returnees not yet signed up.

John S. will reach out to people are still on the list but did not play last year.

John & Jim will work on returnee who have not yet signed up.

Finances (John S.)

\$9,000 in bank

8 sponsors total – 5 returning and 3 new

Not all of the returning sponsors have paid yet – John working on it.

Discuss new sponsors –

Dr. Payne of Tidewater Orthopedic

Mike Sloan has been working this.

Discuss having a banner made with all sponsor logos to put up at evening games as well as at our morning games (recruiting tool)

Shirts will have sponsor logos

Give sponsors tickets for box seats at each game! (as a courtesy)

Budget for Managers to get shirts made of their own design. Discuss Managers keeping shirts but decided not to do it this year because of sponsor changes.

Colonial Sports can get shirts made in two weeks. Make sure we have all sponsor logos to give to them

Recruitment update - Dick

Materials sent out to BOD prior to meeting include:

Letter from Commissioner

Fact sheet (Ric gave Dick updated fact sheet with logo)

WSSL 2021 Recruiting photos (PowerPoint)

New Recruit Resistance Points and Responses to Address Them (Larry Rouse)

Business cards

Teams

As of now, 5 teams of 12-13 players per team

If maintain odd number of teams, would have one team off per play date and this team would supply umpers and a score book keeper. Jane Giffin volunteer to be in charge of score keepers

Will need to see total number of registrations to obtain final number of teams

Rich Tindall agree to manage 5th team.

Discuss no Managers from BOD, but BOD members can be Assistant Managers

Fields - QP, JCCRC (and field discussion)

Looks like we will play on Quarterpath (still a mess at this time)

Ric to follow up with Robbi about QP (call scheduled for 3/2 am prior to BOD meeting)

For now, practice on Kiwanis and JCC Rec Center

Discuss line in outfield that outfielders must stay behind. 160 or 200 ft? Decided on 160

Will bring this up in the virtual meeting with WP&R.

Season should be 40 games – Jim will make schedule when number of teams decided.

During summer, schedule one game per week per team.

Practice to start second week of March – include rookie evaluation.

John A. would like to start practice at Quarter Path if possible.

Will target **April 13** start date for the season with the flexibility to start as late as May 1 (in case of Covid)

Membership meeting – Tuesday March 9

Andy Jacobs said that we can use gym at Matoaka Elementary in the evening.

We need to get presentations ready. Will discuss at next BOD meeting

JCC - Warhill master plan zoom meeting 2/18 (Ric and Jim on the Zoom meeting.)

Jim asked Allister about the size of the fields they are planning to put in. We may have some input on this. Jim also talked to Williamsburg Youth Baseball about having fields with 260 foot fences. **Jim will coordinate a response by March 5.**

City Council and Board of Supervisors presentations:

Jim sent letters and he provided a list of the responses he received

Covid Update? - not much new. No changes before the end of the month

Need to keep on this. Looks like we should be OK for outdoor activities.

We will need to complete signatures sheets for WP&R (Ric will keep track of this) as well as our WSSL Waiver forms (John A and Ric)

Will sent a draft for an updated Covid procedure. Would like to present to WP&R prior to the virtual meeting next week.

Next Door Neighbor article. Done by Larry Rouse

Suggestion that we use Tom Garcia.

Narielle Living (Tom Garcia) idea/reporter from WTKR **?**, Nana-Sentuo Bonsu

Rules committee review – Ric

Update and approval of rules as circulated, Will present at the Annual Meeting

Next scheduled meeting - Tuesday March 2, 2021 Noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

March 2, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John S. (Stubby), John A.

Agenda: To go over the presentations for the annual meeting for next week.

Jim - Intro, sponsors, rookie intro, schedule, brief Warhill & Williamsburg projects, BOD openings/voting

John A - Evaluation plan, team assignment plan

Ric - Rules, QP Update, **Covid Procedures**

John S - Financial report, audit participants (Larry Rouse – **Jim will ask for volunteer**)

Ben - Member survey, website items; - **Ric will talk about Team App**

Dick – Recruitment - lunches

We will also need to thank Mike Sloan for his sponsor recruitment efforts.

Jim sent an invite to sponsors to attend the meeting. 2 responses so far.

Everybody should send their slides to Ben using template from last year.

Ben will coordinate AV with Andy Jacobs.

Include Channel 13 story. John S. has on his laptop and will bring to play.

Other Business/Discussion:

Jim passed around our response to JCC about the Warhill Master Plan.

Total of 8 sponsors, 5 have paid so far. John and Jim collecting checks
Sloan chasing all of them.

Registrations (John S.) – summary chart handed out showing all on the list.
63 total to date. 13 returnees not yet signed up. 8 rookies total 71.

Discuss some of the new recruits and status of returning players

John S. reaching out to people are still on the list but did not play last year.

John & Jim will work on returnees who have not yet signed up.

WP&R Zoom call from this morning (Ric, Dick, John S. Robbi Hutton and Tyler Cobb)

1. Update them on the growth of the league. Expect 5 teams, maybe a 6th this year
Annual meeting March 9.

Plans to start practices in March 1; start season April 13.

WSSL Covid procedure being updated and we should have something to her by the end of the week.

Again, all players will sign the WP&R form before being allowed to play on the fields.

Jim suggests that we put up semi-permanent signs about Covid procedures at QP.

Ric will talk to Tyler about this and will have the signs made.

2. Status of fields at Quarterpath and Kiwanis?

Tyler: Renovations starting at Kiwanis late April. We could use before then
We indicated that we would prefer to use just QP.

When will the fields be ready and when can we start playing at Quarter Path?

Tyler response: nothing done with QP fields yet. They might get to it this week.
He will call Ric on Monday to discuss status to see if when we can get started.

60-foot bases and pitching rubber at Quarterpath?

Tyler: They will install these as we requested. Pitching rubber at 43 feet.
We indicated that it would be good to have them in when we start practicing.
Grandstands closed at QP. People will need to bring their own chairs

3. Inquire of putting a line in the outfield. An arc at approximately 160 feet.

Tyler: They will have to get back to us on this.

4. Any additional possibility of our placing our box somewhere on the premise

Tyler: said that we could do this along the 1st base line on field 3

Recruitment update

Dick – putting fliers around town.

Said that Membership knows people – we should rely on word of mouth.

Ad to appear in the Gazette tomorrow.

Consider putting ad in Next Door Neighbor. Probably too much lead time for this season. Maybe for next year.

Article going in about Tom Garcia sometime this spring.

John S. Suggest that we put on the Web site that we play on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. – Ben said that he would take care of this.

Teams

Discussion about number of teams and managers.

John arrived and talked about player assignments in general terms.

John said Billy Moore willing to do Umpire clinic again this year. We should get this on the schedule soon after the annual meeting.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday March 31, 2021 Noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

March 24, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John S. (Stubby), John A.

Bat rules - Need any adjustment? Allow senior bats?

No need to change rules on bats or balls

Website FAQ page

Dick and Ric to work on this

Schedule - 7 Teams

Jim handed out tentative schedule with a 7 week rotation and one team having a bye on each game day. With this schedule, there would be six cycles for a total of 42 play dates and each team would be scheduled to play 36 games. With 60 possible play dates on the calendar, this would leave 18 dates for rain make up and a mid-summer break. Also allows for an all-star game and a double elimination playoff. Jim is currently working on putting this together (see recent emails).

Anderson chairs & WSSL patches – contest

Holding a raffle on the Web site, Also a way to move along the excess patches.

JCC practices - Mike Allen, Dick Hoell

Not play there for now – it would cost us too much

Make sure that any scrimmages or practices there NOT be in any way related to WSSL

Practice on WP&R fields 2 & 3. According to John S., they do not want us to use field 1

John S. will keep track of the practices so that we can make payment to WP&R.

Team practices the next two weeks before the season begins on April 13. Note, can practice every week day (weather permitting) and not just Tuesday and Thursday.

Add a BoD member? Job Description?

No real discussion now...defer until a later date.

Trophy to Brickhouse?

Done, picture taken

Rookie Evals

John says went well and nearing completion (done as of Friday) and teams assigned

Teams

7 teams with 84 +/- players – 12 players per team

Cut Rookies?

NO

Facebook Page

Discuss Ray Hutchison to possibly take over Facebook page because he is an IT guy

Umpire Clinic

Scheduled for Friday 3/26. Billy Moore will run and Ben posted his “pointers” on the web site. Update – 23 people attended. Still important to recruit some more umpires as the season goes along because we will need (ideally) 6 umpires for each 3 game play date. Ric scheduled to discuss this with Billy Wagner on 3/29.

QP Fields Update

See above under practices

Outfield line at 160 feet – Ric confirmed this with Tyler

Tyler agreed to be in communication with Ric about field status each morning we are scheduled to play. Ric will then notify Managers and BOD members by text. Hopefully, this will be done by 8 am. As Ric has said before, “**No news is good news**” He will only send out notifications when Tyler says that the fields are not playable.

Rules

Latest version posted on web site and Team App

Jim has only two applicants for substitute runners. Jim or John will decide if there are any additional to add on a case by case basis.

CPR Class, purchase AED?

Inquiry made to Emmitt about CPR class. Decided against AED (too expensive)

Scorekeepers

Need one per game. Two books, one for field 2 and one for field 3. Jane Giffin will coordinate this.

Next scheduled meeting - Monday April 12, 2021 11:30 am. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

April 12, 2021, Brickhouse Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John S, John A.

Board Membership - May need to add additional member (s) – to be discussed.

Billsburg kick-off event - Approximately 25 players and total of 40 people attended – big success.

Schedule - 7 Teams

Based on posted schedule, rain outs will be after rescheduled the break in July. At that time a schedule for the 2nd half of the season will be posted.

Opening Day tomorrow – no opening ceremonies planned.

John S. has made a “scorekeeper kit” which includes book, instructions and line-up card. Scorekeepers should text score to Ben and Ric (for Team App) after the games

If a player bats “out of order” the first time around, then that should be the line-up for the rest of the game. If a player bats out of order after that, they should be called out.

How will this work...will the scorekeeper report this to the umpire?

New and injured players

[Kris](#) Van Dusen to start June 17. One other player – also starting late – did not catch name. Several players on DL for now. George Karabinos replace Mike Wells on Red As new players join, they will be used as replacement players or subs with assignments to be made in the future.

All Star Game(s) - The league has voted and there will be 2 All Star games at the time of the break in July. We need to work on the details for this.

Shirts and hats - Shirts are in and mostly passed out. Jim will be at the field early tomorrow to pass out remainder to Managers. Hats to be picked up today. New hats to be issued to players every two years

Umpire Pinneys - Have 9. [One dozen ordered for \\$32/dozen have been shipped.](#)

Face Masks (protective – not Covid) - 4 more in the box.

Balls - League will provide one new ball per game. Umpires should get from box as well as two “good” used ball. Then they should replace these in the box after the game.

We need to communicate this.

Substitute Players – Billy Wagner has in hand and is keeping Ric up to date.

John A. provided a list of player ratings for us to use in assigning substitute players.

Notice to go out to Managers to make their requests by 6 pm Sunday evening.

Anderson chairs – contest - Holding a raffle on the Web site, Sixteen players signed up so far. May extend date because of rain outs.

Pitching Machine – Mike Allen has a new one available. Ric will buy from him and keep in his SUV (DONE) to loan to teams. Need to get a bucket of old balls from John A

Website FAQ page - Ben says Web-site is up to date.
Dick and Ric to work on FAQ – no progress to report

Facebook Page - Discuss Ray Hutchison to possibly take over Facebook page because he is an IT guy Nothing further about this.

Jim without internet. Ric to issue response via WSSL Subs

Commissioner’s Report (via Ric Zakour BOD Secretary) – sent 4/12

Tomorrow, Tuesday, April 13 is the opening Day for the third season of WSSL
We are now over 90 players and have 7 teams for the start of the season.
This offseason has been a big recruiting success. KEEP IT GOING!

Games tomorrow at Quarterpath fields are:

9 am: Pin Stripe vs. Blue – field 2

Gold vs. Purple – field 3

10:30: Red vs Orange – field 3

Green team has a BYE

There was a preseason gathering at Billsburg Brewery last evening that was a big success. Over 40 players and spouses in attendance. Good kick off of the season

The league has voted and there will be 2 All Star games at the time of the break in July. You will be voting for the players in these games. Details will be forthcoming.

If you have not received your shirts and hats, Jim Ratkus will be at the field tomorrow morning before the games at 8 am and can provide them to you at that time.

We are still looking for volunteers to be substitute players, umpires and scorekeepers. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please respond to this message. Also, if you would like to shadow an umpire or a scorekeeper tomorrow, please let the umps and score keepers know (for either the early or late games), and they would be glad to show you the ropes.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday June 2, 2021 11:30 am. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

May 13, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John S, John A.

Mask Use (For Covid)

Based on the latest orders from the Governor, If vaccinated, Masks are not needed by players and fans at our games. Individuals should use individual judgement. Ric checked with Tyler Cobb, and the bleachers are available for use.

Illegal Bats

There has been some push back about suspending managers. We agreed the use of an illegal bat is an action deserving suspension from the league. A player using an illegal bat of any type (rolled, shaved, no proper certifications, etc.) prior to mid-season will be suspended for the remainder of that season. If caught after mid-season, suspension for the rest of the current season **and** the next season. Since managers' should be checking their teams' bats, the manager, if and when a player is caught, will be suspended for the next two team games. The rules committee will be working on the specific wording for this and it will be in the rule book next season. It is, however, in effect immediately.

Game Day Procedures

Managers need to pick up home plate and strike plate before the game and put it away after the game. Score keepers need to pick up their packets and follow the instructions there in. Umps need to pick up their black pinneys.

Minimum Standards

Ric sent around the ones being used by NVSS as a starting point. Discuss that we need to implement some time, but did not decide to do when to start. The general consensus is that all current players will be grandfathered.

Contraction and/or Rebalancing

Much discussion about this and there was a general agreement that we need to do something at this time. Jim sent message to league regarding this possibility.

Follow up from the BOD Zoom call on 5/14:

The Orange team will be consolidated with the players being assigned to the other six teams. This has been done and the new rosters have been assigned. A new six team schedule has been posted on the Web site. This is all starting Tuesday, May 18.

All Star Game(s) - The league has voted and there will be 2 All Star games at the time of the break on July 8. One game will be for players under 65 and the other for players 66 and older (Question, will we have any women in the older category?) voting will take place on June 15 & 17 with results announced by June 20.

Recruiting Luncheon

After the All Star game, everybody will be invited to post game lunch at Billsburg and the recruiter will be recognized (and receive a free lunch!)

Pitching Machine – Pitching machine has been purchased and is available to teams. Ric keeping track of this.

Jim summarized other items in his email message to the league on May 13, so rather than be redundant, please refer to that message for anything that I may have missed.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday June 9, 2021 11:00 am. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

June 9, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John S, John A.

Discussion about Andy Jacobs availability – he is available all summer

Actions embarrassing WSSL

Illegal bats – addressed last month

Inappropriate Texting and Facebook – Jim will address with Mike Allen

Need to find replacement person responsible for WSSL Facebook page.

– not Ray Hutchison

Blue – differences with players in conflict being worked out

Subs/Umps – Will seems to have this under control.

In weekly email for availability have people respond only if they are not available.

Will requests that players let him, as well as their managers know about vacations

New players – John A. screened, yesterday. Sent to Will to add to sub list.

Not being assigned to teams at this time. John Townsend out for a while due to hernia.

Larry Rouse, now also available to be a sub and ump.

Umpire Issues - question about an occurrence yesterday involving player crossing the commitment line and not tagging up. Called out

Defensive player not a catcher starting in fair territory – not permitted in the rules.

“Tie goes to the runner call” – no such thing – need to inform umpires

All Star Games

Stout contacted Tyler, and we can use Kiwanis field. Rest rooms will be open

Change eligibility rule to extend the older players birthday until the end of the year.

Stout will revise the ballot.

Picnic afterward at Billsburg Brewery

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday ??? 11:00 am. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

June 30, 2021, Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John S, John A.

All Star Game

Updated All Star game rosters distributed

Discuss after the game at Billsburg.

Lunch for new player referrals. Note: See emails after this meeting to discuss the arrangements for this.

Jim Giffin donating Gatorade and water for players at the game.

We will do a food drive for Williamsburg House of Mercy (Ric will organize)

Umps and scorekeepers. Two umps, Billy Wagner and Larry Rouse. SK – TBD

ASGames will be 7 innings, not 9 innings

Stubby and his son will MC.

Home Run Derby

Tuesday, July 6 – Kiwanis field

Stubby and John A. will organize – two players per team

Rules

Rules Committee to should meet during break to discuss a number of items including

Team starting with less than 12 players

Substitute Runner as a Courtesy Runner.

Substitute Players from other teams

Need to review the substitute rating system and the method used for selection substitute players. Rule 13.4 contradicts our intention of IF/OF/SS/P only.

One old hat left – give to Jim Kladder

NOTE: There has been a delay in getting this out. See email (below) from WSSL Softball regarding the All Star game and several other issues.

Next scheduled meeting - Mon, August 9 NOON. At Brickhouse

6/30/21

The BoD met today and finalized plans for the upcoming All-Star Games on July 8th. There will be two (2) seven inning games played back to back beginning at 9am. The 66+ age group will play first, with the 65U group game beginning no later than 15 minutes after the first game ends. The location is Kiwanis Park, 125 Longhill Rd. Be sure and tell any family/spectators to wear a hat or bring a parasol.

Rosters have been finalized and distributed to the managers. They might contact players for a practice or two during the week leading up to the games. Teams for both games will consist of players from Red, Blue, & Green vs Silver, Gold, & Purple. A coin toss will determine home and visitor teams.

We will continue a new tradition with our ASG food drive. We ask everyone attending to bring non-perishable food items (or grocery gift cards) for donation to the Williamsburg House of Mercy Food Pantry. This donation will be delivered immediately after the completion of the second game.

At the completion of the games, all members, family and friends are welcome to meet up at Billsburg Brewery for socializing and storytelling. The league, as promised, will buy lunch for our 2021 recruiting wizards: Billy Moore, Roy Geiger, Dick Hoell, Will Murray, Andy Jacobs, John Antretter, Steve Chisholm, John Ancellotti, and John Stout. These folks were directly responsible for adding several new members to our league.

A late bit of fun...We plan to hold the first ever WSSL Home Run Derby on Tuesday, July 6th at 9am. Again, the venue will be Kiwanis Park. Each team should have elected two players to compete for this coveted, "bragging rights" activity! If you have been selected to participate, please, contact John Stout (stubbyhoo@gmail.com) with your contact info.

WSSL BOD Meeting

September 8, 2021, Brickhouse Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John A, John S

Personnel Issue

A violation of the WSSL Code of Conduct by a player was discussed and a unanimous decision was reached as to proper and swift discipline. FOLLOW UP: This issue has been discussed with the player and he understood.

Player Discussions

Two new players deemed not suitable physically for WSSL play. They will be offered other positions within the league. This will be discussed with them by John A. and Dick. They will not be required to make any dues payment.

John discussed assignment of new players to teams. He will share the most recent updates of skill levels with the Subs Committee.

After the meeting, it was learned that Dan O'Neil (Blue Manager) has a torn calf muscle and will miss the rest of the season.

Board Position – Secretary – Ric will not run again in 2022. Will serve the remainder of his term and will transition to a new person when and if one is identified. This position must be voted on by the membership in the Annual meeting.

Possible candidates to approach:

Andy Jacobs

Bruce Chrisman

Larry Rouse (not mentioned, but I think he would be a good candidate)

Should we organize discussions with any of these people?

People who do not want to be considered further

Joanne Webb-Fary

Billy Wagner

Junior Board Members

John A suggested that we identify Junior board members. New BOD members who take on or help current BOD Officers with their tasks and responsibilities but have no voting powers.

Dick mentioned that Brian Molloy would take responsibility for lunches and could help him with Facebook

Ric said that current Substitutes Committee and Rules Committee reports to him

John A. does Evaluations and Substitutes Committee.

Subs Committee

Meeting held with Board on Sept 9 to update them on progress and procedures.
Message from Commissioner to Managers to brief them on current subs procedures.

AED

Jim sent out letters to 8 organizations
"In a Heartbeat" will donate one to WSSL.

They should be listed as a sponsor.

If no other donors come forth, we should consider buying on.
They will be kept in the box and will be taken to each field before games.
Will need to schedule training – this will not be free

Heat Index

Jim sent around a very good reading that all should review.
Have agreed that next year will not be playing games in July and August and this will eliminate much of the problem.
For the remainder of this it was agreed that we should consider suspending games if the heat index is predicted to be above 90 for either game.
Ric will contact Tyler to see if we can use field one any time. However, if we play three games starting at 9 am, then there will be no substitutes available.

Post Season Tournament

Would have to be in November as all available play dates are filled due to cancellations.
Stubby pointed out that we could do a double elimination tournament in three days if teams are willing to play more than one game per day.

Survey

Ben says that prior used programs will not work due to cost. He will look into alternatives. Perhaps use the one on Team App? Ric will connect Ben with Chris McFarland to discuss

Year End Party

Mike Sloan has volunteered his house.
Stubby wants to be involved in planning

Recruiting

Dick will have his committee do this.
Christmas parade and spotlight players in the Gazette

Other Items

Stubby suggests that an evaluation committee meet as soon as possible after the season to rate players.
WISC indoor training during off season. John A. should talk to John Ray.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday, October 6 NOON. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

October 6, 2021, Brickhouse Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Dick, John A., John S.

Fields for tomorrow game

Ben reported on the field current status. John S followed up with Tyler.

Joanne and Eric decided to play the 2 innings to finish up the previous game before the regularly scheduled game. Discuss the possibility to only use Field 3 with the game currently scheduled for that field to be player first. *Added in revision: Both games played on field 3 and Green/Purple did not play the end two inning*

Proposed new Recreation Center meeting

Jim and Dick attended and felt that it was very informative. They will be making guidelines for the fields surrounding it...may include softball fields.

Jim mentioned that Ric will take the lead as the city/county liaison for fields.

Jim and Ric will schedule lunch with Williamsburg City Manager Andrew Trivette.

New Secretary

Several qualified candidates were discussed with Steve Chisholm emerging as a consensus choice to succeed Ric as the New BOD Secretary. We would like to have all of the individuals who were considered involved in various roles for WSSL. Ric will continue to serve as an advisor for the new Secretary and help in any other way on Board activities as needed.

Rating Group

John A. will organize a rating to evaluate all current players at the end of the season. A number of qualified individual representing a cross-section of current teams were discussed.

Christmas Parade – Sunday, December 5 in the evening.

John S. in charge of this and he has already paid for it and will attend the organization meetings. Dick would like to have input for recruiting.

End of Season Tournament

May not have enough people for all teams to participate. Jim will discuss with Managers.

End of Season Party

At Mike Sloan's on Thursday November 4, with Saturday, November 6 being a rain date. Time TBD.

AED

Jim previously provided quotes for 2 organizations. Price range app \$2,000. May be able to get one donated from "In a Heartbeat." We would look into purchasing a second one or perhaps asking one of our sponsors to do this (Tidewater Ortho?). The objective

would be to have these for next season. Will need to schedule training once these are obtained. They will be kept in the box and will be taken to each field before games.

Yoga Class

Deemed successful by Jim and John S.

Off Season Conditioning – John A.

At WISC. \$30/month for 4 months. Would have use of facility after 9 am. Probably need 10-12 people to sign up. May make arrangements to include optional Yoga instruction.

Heat Index

Agreed that a predicted Heat of Index of 90 be the cut off. Early games could be played a lower H.I. and late games could be cancelled.

We should try to push for use of Field 1 so that we could play three early games (may be problematic because of availability of subs and umpires)

Survey - Ben

Ben says that prior used programs will not work due to cost. Ben will be looking using Team App for the survey. Ric offered to help and to bring in Chris McFarland to discuss. He may get Ray Hutchinson to help with survey.

Ben also working on putting the BOD minutes on the web site. Also, he will inquire about having Skip Miller help with the Web site.

Recruiting - Dick

See handout from Dick. He has already received some feedback and will report at the next BOD meeting. He has identified member to handle subcommittees.

Rules Discussion - Ric

More than 12 players. The rules need to be tweaked so that it is more explicit that teams do not have substitute players other than for pitcher and SS that would cause a team to field more than twelve players for a game.

Time limits. Scorekeeper should let Managers know when a game has been going on for 65 minutes (10 minutes short of our proposed 75 minute time limit) and the managers should agree at the beginning of an inning that both teams will have an unlimited run limit. **Suggestion:** *maybe the time of play should be announced at the end of 5 innings and the Managers decide at that time how to continue.*

Courtesy Runner – Rather than the last batter out, the Board said that the courtesy runner should be the last out. *I personally do not see why there is confusion over using the “Last Batted out.”*

BOD Term limits - Would need to amend the Bylaws at the next general meeting

Next Door Neighbor - Leslie Revilock

Next scheduled meeting - **Wednesday, November 3 NOON. At Brickhouse**

WSSL BOD Meeting

3 November 2021, Brickhouse Tavern

In attendance: Jim R., John A., Ric Z., John S., Dick H. Ben D. & Steve C.

End of Year Party

Jim kicked off the meeting with a request for a brief review of preparations for the 11/4/2021 “End of Year” party being held at Mike Sloan’s residence. John A. provided an update on the purchase of the league provided food, as well as the projected amount of tables and coolers being supplied by Mike and from league members. John A. also mentioned that Mike had requested league support with a “greeting team” that would help control arriving attendees as to keep his driveway free of parked cars. Dick volunteered to help with this. Additionally, Mike asked for assistance from the league for a couple members to be available to watch/maintain the bonfire that will be located on the beach. John S. advised that he will be there by 3:00 pm to start set-up of the PA system that he is picking up later today and will also receive some tables being delivered to the venue.

Announcements of the six “Most Improved” players and remarks will be made by Jim with the arrived crowd gathered to begin the food serving phase. John S. will keep the crowd informed of the program via PA as they arrive.

Christmas Parade

Jim asked if the WSSL banner was ready and available to be carried in the parade scheduled for 5 December. Dick confirmed same and a discussion ensued relative to the options available for the league to march in the parade. Jim advised that his plea to hear from anyone who could help with the procurement of a flatbed truck/trailer/bus for the parade returned no responses. Jim then proposed that seeking the use of classic/vintage car owners to cruise along with us as we walk the route could be available to us again. The group agreed this would serve to draw attention to the league in a unique way and Jim advised that he would reach out to the group of classic car owners in Yorktown to gauge their interest in supporting us. John S. advised that the delivery of the promotional logo softballs planned for use at the parade were expected soon.

WISC Initiative

John A. provided that Mark Metivier is taking the lead for off-season workouts at the WISC facility. John A. furthered that the \$20/month rate for those 60+ was a real deal and he anticipated significant interest from league members, particularly after the first of the new year. The group discussed our interest in getting the attention of prospective members and Dick stressed using the WISC as a recruitment hook. The possibility of approaching the WISC for permission to hold an “open house” for prospective members there, without charging them a fee for that day was raised. Additionally, the prospect of seeking WISC approval of allowing us to “sponsor” a prospective individual member for a day at no charge for them to participate in a workshop or some structured drills was discussed.

Rules Committee

The Board clarified that the Rules Committee would remain under the oversight of the Board Secretary position. Jim R. stated that all manager and committee roles will be subjected to a application/re-application process and that he would send an email league-wide accordingly. The goal is to encourage league members to step up into new /different leadership roles while permitting those who desire to continue supporting the league in their current roles to restate their interest in the position. All applications and re-applications will be subject to review by the Board and feedback provided upon determination of each request. Criteria upon which the Board will deliberate on for managers and committee members are being developed and will largely reflect the qualities and ideals within the league's credo.

The Board discussed the value of establishing an Umpire/Scorekeeper Committee/Sub-Committee to enhance the training and expertise of umpires and scorekeepers as well as to receive feedback from league members volunteering in such roles. Ed Conner was mentioned as a potential candidate to head up this effort.

Jim R. stated that the critical issues of heat index, game time and approved bat policy will need to be prioritized in the immediate to allow for the opportunity to be briefed at the annual league meeting early in the new year.

Managers

The Board discussed the plan to have all existing managers reapply to be managers for the next season if they wish to remain managers. As mentioned previously, criteria are being established upon which to assess these applications.

Jim R. reiterated that a Lead Manager role will be established as a primary liaison with league managers and will report through John A. This role will be key to disseminating consistent information and direction to managers while taking in manager requests and feedback for John A. to immediately address where appropriate/necessary or for potential Board consideration. The Lead Manager will also play a key role in overseeing player development as well as new player assessments.

Substitute Committee

Jim R. clarified that the Sub Committee would be subject to the same application process as the rest of the league's non-BOD leadership roles. Jim reaffirmed that the Sub Committee would fall under the role of the Deputy Commissioner.

Recruiting

The Board discussed efforts underway to recruit new league members and stressed the critical tipping point of moving someone from interested to actually signing up. Dick mentioned ongoing modifications to the website to better attract new players. Jim R. and John A. surfaced the potential of using WSSL branded merch to publicize the league locally by using league members as "walking billboards". A discussion of what sort of item(s) should comprise the initial effort took place and it was agreed that a light jacket would be the best first approach. Jim R. has begun discussions with a local vendor to start this process.

New Division Proposal

The Board discussed the goal of expanding the league to two divisions as early as the 2022 season if new player recruitment goals to support such an expansion are realized. Going with 10 player defensive alignment vs. our current 11 was an option raised to potentially facilitate such an expansion as each roster would require one less player and a team could play with a minimum of 11 players vs the current 12.

Jim R. asked Ric Z. to stand-up a committee to study the feasibility for the start-up of a new division.

Treasurer Status

John S. provided a status on the league's not being invoiced for field usage since May 2021, John advised that the amount owed is \$1,855.00 and he will once again request an invoice for this amount owed.

The next WSSL Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1 December 2021 at noon at Brickhouse Tavern.

WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes - 1 December 2021

Attendees: Jim R., John A., Ben D. John S. & Steve C.

Venue: Brick House Tavern

The meeting kicked off with Bud Ramey briefing the Board on the newly established Recruitment Committee's initial efforts to promote the WSSL with a branding initiative to attract new members to the league. Bud advised that the committee, himself included, held extensive experience in the private sector working on branding and promoting business initiatives. The group determined that "The Art of Belonging" marketing approach was chosen to develop our marketing strategy. Consistent imaging and messaging is essential for successful branding and Bud provided an image taken by John S. of seven WSSL players (5 males/2 females) representing all six teams on one of the Kiwanis fields with the league name prominently featured along with the slogan "Softball Has Never Been More Fun!" The Board approved the product and determined that it should be reproduced to fit flyer and business card formats and sizes for ease in handing out materials promoting the league. The new materials will be ready for our use by mid-December.

Christmas Parade: It was noted that offers to include local antique car clubs went without response so the league will be represented by 20-30 members carrying the new banner that Jim R. had fabricated to promote the WSSL.

WISC Initiative: The first open house at the WISC on 29 November was deemed successful with a dozen or so players attending and 5-6 members deciding to join the WISC as members and a few more taking information to evaluate their potential membership. The second open house is scheduled for 3 December 2021 at 11:00 and will be promoted again on the Team App.

Additional BoD discussion ensued re: working with Mark Metivier to establish and promote scheduled clinics on hitting, fielding, pitching, and situational play. The BoD agreed that the optimal approach is to have Mark coordinate a schedule that incorporates the availability of the best and most appropriate WISC resources as well as the best WSSL players to lead each specific clinic or module of instruction. Then the clinics will be promoted to existing and potential new players. John A. noted that these clinics will be separate from other events promoted by the league for drills, general off-season skill sharpening and fitness programs.

Ben advised that work on the survey questions and the format are being finalized. The Board inquired of the potential approach to use two separate surveys, one done sooner to address the past season and another later to address future topics would provide optimal feedback. Ben advised that such an approach was certainly viable and it was agreed to pursue this strategy. Ben added that the Recruitment Committee is asking for additional space on the League website to be dedicated for recruitment efforts. The Board was supportive of this and will work with Dick H. to determine next steps.

The Board discussed the potential of establishing a "Business Card Corner" on the website to support league members who could use this to offer their professional skills to other members. The Board discussed the potential pro's and con's of such an initiative and determined that, while desiring to be supportive of our members, such an effort could potentially conflict with

current or future sponsors who pay the league a sponsorship fee in return for our promoting their business. Additionally, the Board agreed that setting such a precedent could potentially lead to perceptions of unequal treatment by those seeking to promote a cause that the Board determines to be inappropriate for WSSL involvement.

Player Evaluations: John A. led a discussion re: the ongoing working group effort to capture and categorize the skill sets of each individual WSSL player. This data will be used in two important ways, by the Substitute Committee to fairly address the needs of shorthanded teams during the upcoming season and in a potential player draft to fairly fill out team rosters for the 2022 season. John S. advised of the status of the evaluation sheets completed by the individual working group members and mentioned that the group's next meeting will be on 6 December with a focus on hammering out some discrepancies amongst a number of evaluations.

John A. additionally advised that he has been personally encouraging a number of league members to consider managerial roles for the 2022 season.

WSSL Focal Point with City/Tyler: John S. provided an update that the city remained unresponsive to his efforts to pay them for field usage for a number of months in 2021. John advised that he will keep at it. Jim R. requested that John S. remain the primary liaison with the city (Tyler Cobb) re: fields, namely requesting our usage of Quarterpath Field #1 for the 2022 season as well as the potential for using the 200' fields at Kiwanis park on Mondays/Thursdays for use by the "Captain John Smith" Division.

Open BoD Positions: Jim R. advised that he will resend an email to the league membership re: the expiring terms of Commissioner, Secretary and Webmaster. This will allow any member the opportunity to express serious interest in any of these positions prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 (venue and time TBD). At this meeting the three positions will be resolved for the next term.

An additional discussion was held re: re-writing the league bylaws to establish terms and term limits for all BoD positions. It was acknowledged that it will take a league membership vote to move forward on this initiative and will be put forth for such a vote at the 26 January meeting. The BoD discussed the bullets provided by Dick H. in his recent email outlining essential manager competencies and agreed that a distilled version of same would be most useful to document for those considering a manager role and to reference when giving feedback to current managers to assist their development where needed.

Various Committee Status:

Sub Committee: The BoD agreed that the primary focal point for this team would be the Commissioner.

Rules Committee: Steve C. provided a status of the committees good work towards resolving the areas of game time, bats and heat index. An initial draft has been put together by Larry Rouse for the group's review and edits. Much work is apparent and it was noted that the team is looking at the efforts of various leagues around the county to determine what existing best practices can be appropriated for the benefit of the WSSL. Steve has provided the group a deadline for their recommendations of 10 January but projects that at the pace the group is working the effort could wrap up prior to this date. Additionally, it was determined that Steve

will request that the current team working this project remain on as committee members through 2022.

Scorekeeper Committee: It was determined that John S. would be the BoD focal point for this committee. Two league members and current scorekeepers were proposed as playing key committee roles for this team.

Umpire Committee: It was determined that this committee would benefit from falling under the Secretary due to the myriad of common threads with the Rules Committee (to include some of the same membership). Two current Rules Committee members and current umpires were discussed as potential committee heads.

New Player Orientation & Evaluation: The group determined that the best fit for this committee would be under the Deputy Commissioner and one current league member was mentioned as potentially leading this team.

Field Preparation and Wrap=Up: A discussion on this led to Jim R. And John S. agreeing to share this effort with one current league member (and former manager) being proposed as the potential leader of this team.

League Trophy: Jim R. advised that the league trophy was in the hands of Tom Figgs who was having a local business inscribe four plaques that will be fixed to the trophy to note the champs from the league's inception to the present.

In closing it was agreed that the next BoD meeting will be held on 5 January 2022.