



Vernon Baseball Association

PO Box 63, Vernon, B.C. V1T 6M1

Email: info@vernonbaseball.com Web: www.vernonbaseball.com

2020 Annual General Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 23, 2020
ZOOM CALL

1. Welcome
2. Thank you to Sponsors
3. Minutes of the last AGM
 - Recommendation that the Minutes of the November 25, 2019 AGM be adopted as circulated
4. Consideration of the Financial Statements – Treasurer’s Report
 - Recommendation that the Financial Statements be accepted as circulated
5. President’s Report
6. Executive Reports:
 - Vice-President
 - Registrar
 - Equipment Manager
 - Field Manager
 - Uniform Manager
 - Communications Director
 - Umpire-In-Chief
 - T-Ball Director
 - Tadpole Director
 - Mosquito Director
 - Pee Wee Director
 - Bantam Director
 - Midget Director
7. Questions from the Floor
8. Nominations and Election of Officers
9. Adjournment



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We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors and the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia who enable us to "Play Ball"

| Type of Sponsorship | Name | Phone | Email / Website |
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| Team Double | Mr. Mikes Steakhouse | 236-426- 4436 | https://www.mrmikes.ca/locations/vernon-bc |
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| Field Support | The City of Vernon | 250-545- 1361 | www.vernon.ca |
| Meeting Facilities | Alexander's Beach Pub | 250-545- 3131 | |
| Advertising Support | The Morning Star | 250-545- 3322 | www.vernonmorningstar.com |
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Minutes for the November 25, 2019 Vernon Baseball Association AGM

Board Members in attendance: Michael Sanfilippo, Carl Vardon, Matthew Brown, Cari McClelland, Darren Battersby, Jennifer Brown, Michelle Sorensen, Terista Mazu, Lance Johnson, Jack Curry, Donelda Gamage, Nathan Lee, Dan Braddick.

Number in attendance: 27

Meeting called to order by Michael Sanfilippo, President at 7:00 pm

Michael welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He then thanked and listed our sponsors.

Review of 2018 AGM Minutes

Questions? No. Michael recommended that the minutes of the November 19, 2018 AGM be accepted as circulated. Motioned by Matthew. Seconded by Terista. All in favour. Minutes adopted.

Financial Statement and Treasurer's report.

Darren stated that overall it was a good year financially. Surplus of \$19,000. Revenues down slightly but expenses down as well. Board is looking at installing score boards so have reserved \$45,000 for that purpose.

Questions? Typo on statement (year). Donelda will fix.

Michael discussed what the financial situation is and how to best reinvest in Vernon Baseball.

Jason Gilbert motioned to recommend financial statement. Matthew seconded. All in favor.

President's report.

Michael discussed the success of the 2019 season. He thanked the other members of the executive for their hard work. Registration is steady. Discussed each level of ball. Had 6 summer teams. Hosted some tournaments. Thanked executive again as well as all coaches, umpires, volunteers and sponsors for their support.

Executive Reports:

- Vice-President: Matthew discussed the growth of Vernon Baseball. He noted that the Baseball Academy and indoor cage has allowed our players to keep improving through the winter. He thanked everyone for their support of Vernon Baseball.
- Registrar: Michael presented report for Shannon. Registration still strong.
- Equipment Manager: Lance discussed purchasing some safety equipment (L screens) and the quality equipment that Vernon baseball provides.
- Field Manager: Nate discussed the relationship between VBA and City of Vernon and District of Coldstream. Hopeful will have scoreboards in place by Spring 2020.
- Uniform Manager: Cari discussed the new style of uniforms this season. Was a successful transition.



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- Communications Director: Jennifer discussed this was a learning year for her in this role but things went really well. Pointed out that the website is the best way for finding out information.
- Umpire-In-Chief: Jack presented report. Has had Braeden helping this year and taking it over next year. Michael spoke of the atmosphere we create at the field and how we are keeping our kids in umpiring – other associations are struggling. Lance thanked Jack for his mentoring of the younger umpires.
- T-Ball Director: Carl discussed the T-ball season and said it was a success.
- Tadpole Director: Terista outlined the Tadpole season and its success. She thanked the parent volunteers. Was the fourth consecutive year with a summer team.
- Mosquito Director: Dan presented the outline of the Mosquito season. Lots of focus on practicing this season. Had 2 summer ball teams.
- Pee Wee Director: Matthew spoke of the successful Pee Wee season. Had great coaches.
- Bantam Director: Michael presented Chase's report. Had 3 spring teams and a group that played extra games and tournaments into July.
- Midget Director: Michael presented Dennis's report. Was a great year – dedicated group of players. Thank you to coaches, players and parents.

Questions from the Floor:

Geoff Cleaveley (Mens League) grateful for positive relationship with Vernon Baseball – have vested interest in field improvements. Have people to volunteer to help and a connection to Fermco machine rentals. Question re batting cage at Marshall – ever plan to put in proper washroom facility? Michael – in winter ask for porta-potty. Don't know if have ever asked to have a proper one put in. Will ask. Question last year about talking to City about old Kin racetrack. Michael - Have been still closing out lawsuits – field is not in great condition and under water early in season. Would need major grading to bring it up and keep dry in spring months. Carl thinks City has different agenda for that area. Needs to be brought up about 12 feet. Michael discussed the need for more fields and that we are keeping eyes open to any possibilities.

Nominations and Election of Officers

- President – Michael will stand. No other nominations.
- Vice-President – Matthew will stand. No other nominations.
- Secretary – Donelda not standing – Tanya Meyer nominated. Accepted.
- Treasurer – Darren not standing. Jason Gilbert nominated. Accepted.
- Registrar – Shannon will stand. No other nominations.
- Equipment Manager – Lance will stand (last year). No other nominations.
- Field Manager – Nate will stand. No other nominations.
- Uniform Manager – Cari will stand. No other nominations.
- Communications Director – Jennifer will stand. No other nominations.
- Umpire-In-Chief – Jack will stand. No other nominations.



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- Umpire Co-ordinator – Marilyn will stand. Looking for someone to fill. No other nominations
- T-Ball Director – Carl will stand. No other nominations.
- Tadpole Director – Terista will stand. No other nominations.
- Mosquito Director – Dan will stand. No other nominations.
- Pee Wee Director – Matthew not standing. Rob Holmes nominated. Accepted.
- Bantam Director – Chase not standing. Dave Helfrick was not at AGM will discuss at next meeting.
- Midget Director – Dennis not standing. Neil Thompson nominated. Accepted.
- Sponsorship Director – Michelle will stand.
- Tournament Director – open. No nominations.

Thank you to new members and exiting members. Thank you to everyone attending.

Adjournment at 8:02pm



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Treasurers report:

Attached are the financial statements for the year ended October 31, 2020.

The organization had another successful year on the field and managed to limit the amount of losses due to COVID. The majority of our expenses were already committed to and paid for when we were shut down due to the pandemic. At that point of time we were going to see a loss of at least \$20,000 possibly even as high as \$40,000 without the infusion of gaming funds.

Fortunately, we received \$21,000 of Provincial Gaming Grant Funding this year.

I am happy to report we ended the season with only at \$13,000 deficit. We were able to absorb this deficit because previous boards had the foresight to put money aside for a rainy day.

The boards desire to hold any kind of season helped us limit our losses and most of all helped get kids on the field playing the sport they love.

Overall revenues were down to \$57,000 from \$128,000 the previous year.

The board continues to pursue the possibility of putting up scoreboards at the Midget, Bantam and Pee Wee fields. As such, we have \$45,000 of cash restricted for this purchase.

This was my first year on the board, I am happy to report the board was a pleasure to deal with and the transition went as smooth as can be expected given all the uncertainty this year brought with it.

Jason Gilbert
Treasurer

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President's Report:

The 2020 baseball season was a challenging season to say the least. The impact of the global pandemic impacted all of us and the sports that we love. This year saw 130 players playing in our Vernon leagues. Registrations were especially strong heading into March 15th when the pandemic struck, and it took us until the end of July before we were able to gain clearance to play baseball. Once we were cleared to play, we were limited in what we could do and offer for training and development. It was especially challenging for our directors to find enough coaches, volunteers, and helpers to put programming together for those who remained registered through the pandemic while following the many adjustments to our games. Next season will be a very telling season as many lost this year of development and were pushed toward other activities that were able to start sooner than team athletics. I believe our registrations will normalize next year but believe we will need to create an additional marketing push to drive more kids back to the game.

Our T-Ball division (7U) with our youngest players was the one division that we did not keep during COVID. This level is so often driven by the parents and volunteers of the kids and the challenge of COVID was too great. We made that decision early in the process and I firmly believe it was the correct decision.

Tadpole (9U), stuck with it and was able to offer some solid skill building practices for the 15 kids who remained registered. A huge thank you to that group for pushing through in a challenging situation.

In the Mosquito division (11U), we were left with 32 kids split up into 3 very competitive teams. The regular season played 8 games all hotly contested where every team beat the other at one point in the season. The season did keep scores & standings with a player-pitch format, base stealing and standard baseball rules and finished with a two game Play-off.

Pee Wee (13U) had a total of 2 Single A teams and one AA team. Development around balks, leadoffs and pick off moves generated exciting baseball throughout the season. The Pee Wee AA team played an 8 game season while the two A teams faced off in a series of games ending with a wrap up double header in September.

Bantam (15U) featured two Single A teams that had a very successful season of development and games locally. A difficult year to swallow when we had hopes and dreams of hosting an outstanding provincial at the A level.

The Midget division (18U) season was a tough one. A lot of hard work and effort by the director and coaches led to the creation of a AAA and AA team in March but by the time the season was able to start many of our older kids had moved on to jobs, school and other activities that limited who was still able to participate. We ended up with one group of 11 kids that were able to practice, take some BP and just enjoy being out on the field together but no games.

I can't say enough about what the community of parents and volunteers did to pull another fantastic season for the kids.

A special thank you to our executive team, coaches, umpires, volunteers & sponsors for their support this past season. Baseball isn't possible without your hard work & contributions.

Michael Sanfilippo
President Vernon Baseball Association



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Vice-President's Report:

This year is one I hope to soon forget. I want to thank Michael for the countless hours of work he put in to provide our children with the abbreviated season that they were able to play. I would also like to thank the executive team, head coaches, assistant coaches, parent helpers, and team managers that all played a role in saving this season.

The growth of baseball in Vernon will be a focus of the board in 2021 as many children were unable to play during our shortened summer season. We want to ensure that we bring back as many of those children as possible to keep the great sport of baseball thriving in Vernon.

VBA is very excited about the 6th continuous year of the Baseball Academy that is offered to grade 8 – 12 players in partnership with SD22 and Evan Bailey. This semester has 12 avid baseball players on the field and in the cage! The skill development our players get from Evan's program is tremendous, this bodes well for the future of Vernon Baseball.

As the safety of our players is our highest priority, we continue to require any adult connected to our programs to have a criminal record check done every 2 years. These were done electronically again this year, which has proven to be effective and will continue in the seasons to come. Coaches are now able to share their profiles with other associations at no cost.

As we look forward towards the 2021 season, we look back, thankful to all those who have continued to develop the baseball program here in Vernon from the executive all the way down to the kids and parents.

Everyone involved in the 2020 season deserves a pat on the back and a huge thank you! It makes it all worth the effort when you hear families praising the great efforts of Vernon Baseball.

Matthew Brown
Vice President

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Registrar's Report:

VBA had a challenging 2020 season due to covid-19. According to our online registration system Karelo, we had **114** baseball players registered for the Spring season. This number is down from 2019 by 248 players. We also did not have a t-ball season, due to the difficulty of managing the division under the covid-19 protocols. Our summer baseball program included 12 Peewee AA kids.

| | |
|----------|----|
| Tadpole | 15 |
| Mosquito | 36 |
| Pee Wee | 30 |
| Bantam | 22 |
| Midget | 6 |

Our online registration system Karelo, was well received again this year. Manual registrations are only used as necessary to accommodate players that have used a funding resource or are not able to register on the computer. VBA is pleased to work with the following funding organizations Jumpstart, Kidsport and A4k in the upcoming 2021 baseball season.

Fitness tax receipts were sent via email February 2020 to registrants for the 2019 season. 2019 fitness tax receipts will be sent via email in February of 2021.

As Registrar, I continue to enjoy my position and plan to continue as Registrar for the 2021 term.

Shannon Sanfilippo
VBA Registrar

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Sponsorship Manager's Report:

This was my 1st year as sponsorship director. I enjoyed and learned more about our community and just how much they are willing to support our kids in many ways. We are very grateful to our returning sponsors and added some new sponsors in as well for another year of support in 2020. Although our year did not go as planned those that had already committed did not ask for a refund. We decided not to move forward in asking for more sponsors as we did not really know what the season was going to look like or how it would play out. Moving forward for 2021, we have decided that we will let those that sponsored in 2020 roll over into 2021 with the option of adding to their donation if they wished, and bump them up to the next level. I am looking forward to connecting with our existing sponsors and reaching out to new businesses in hopes of setting up some new support for VBA helping achieve more for our upcoming season again.

Michelle Sorensen
VBA Sponsorship Director

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Equipment Manager's Report:

I just completed my fifth and final year as Equipment Manager for Vernon Baseball. I will be available to help the new Equipment Manager for Vernon Baseball as that person becomes familiar with the role. Our association is in very good shape regarding equipment at all levels of play so the transition should not be difficult at all.

Sincerely,
Lance Johnson
VBA Equipment Manager

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Field Manager's Report:

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we were limited to a shorter field maintenance schedule than usual. Mounds were rebuilt at Marshall in the summer, and some regular maintenance was done at each field location.

We remain committed to the donation of digital LED scoreboards to the City of Vernon and District of Coldstream for fields at Lakeview, Creekside, and Marshall. After much work, this process has evolved into a partnership with a local non-profit organization which has generously donated the cost of the six scoreboards, which would leave VBA responsible for the installation costs of the scoreboards at each field location and alleviate any purchase or installation costs for Vernon and Coldstream. I have initiated the processes involved for these donations and we are looking forward to positive resolutions with City/District councils and staff.

After 5 years on the board, I will be stepping down as field director. It has been my honor to serve on a board alongside such dedicated individuals. Some growth continues to be made in regards to our relationships and expectations with the City of Vernon and the District of Coldstream and I will work with the new field director to ensure a smooth transition. I have also committed to following through on the scoreboards project and will continue with the project until such a time that ground is broken.

Sincerely

Nathan Lee
VBA Field Manager

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Uniform Manager's Report:

The uniforms for all teams were ordered locally and consisted of t-shirts and hats. The uniforms for T-ball and Tadpole were ordered from Tim Hortons. The uniforms for Peewee, Bantam and Midget travel teams were the same as the style from last year and included a hat, belt and socks. VBA no longer stores or reuses jerseys. We can provide player jerseys that are kept by players as part of the registration fees.

As the season was shorter and less players participating due to COVID, we will have uniforms that were preordered in 2020 that can be used for next season. We will reassess the needs for next season by looking at inventory on hand ordering what is required for the 2021 season.

Cari McClelland
Uniform Manager

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Communication Director's Report:

The 2020 season was unfortunately, the year of Covid 19. We opened registration for Spring Ball in early January. In February, we ran radio ads with Sun FM for registration. Shortly after the close of registration, we suspended all activities due to Covid 19. In March, I worked with Michael to keep the VBA web site updated as to the status of Spring Ball. In June, the copious amounts of Return to Play documents and materials were uploaded onto our web site in order to adhere to the guidelines put forth by the province.

The Vernon Baseball website still remains the best and fastest avenue for members and non-members alike to access all things baseball. Parents can access information for registration, camps, academy, umpires, and more. Email inquiries are routed via the forwarding system which makes it easy for people to contact the correct director for a quick response. It is all very efficient.

Our website team at Sayvee is very professional and easy to work with. They have been very proactive with meeting our needs. The switch from Vertical Response to Mail Chimp for our email marketing has continued to save us money as it is a free service for the size of our contact list.

I continue to be in awe of the commitment from our Board of Directors. This has been a challenging year for everyone, yet they all worked so hard to get the kids back on the fields to play some baseball. We are very fortunate to have Michael Sanfilippo as our president. Thank you, Michael for the countless hours that you spend making VBA run smoothly. Your dedication to kids' ball is inspiring. COVID has put an extraordinary workload onto volunteers across all clubs this year and I am proud of the work that we have done to achieve a safe and socially responsible short season.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners and volunteers who put in their funding, time, and effort in making "Play Ball" happen.

Jennifer Brown
Communications Director

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Umpire in Chief's Report:

The 2020 Umpire season was challenging to say the least, we found ourselves knee deep in the pandemic. BCBUA chose not to have any clinics in our area, which left our new and up and coming umpires somewhat disappointed, so we held our own clinic with a dozen new umpires, and with the help of my assistant Brayden Heffron we were able to give them enough knowledge to work the limited amount of games that were played.

The pandemic also forced us to learn and adapt to a new method of umpiring, that changed our focus, but also forced us to pay even more attention to our craft, which I believe will pay dividends in the future.

We also moved to a new assignment software that at first was somewhat confusing but with time turned out extremely well, and with our new assigner Tanya Meyer's help and patience we were able to get through the season with next to no problems.

We also took on the assigning and umpiring of the Vernon men's league, which was the bulk of this year's games. This was in my feelings a resounding success for players and umpires.

Hopefully next year will be a more normal year, with lots of games, tournaments and championships.

Umpire in Chief
Jack Curry

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7U/T-Ball Director's Report:

Due to COVID 19 T-Ball was cancelled. We are hopeful to start the 2021 season in the spring.

Carl Vardon
T-Ball Director

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9U/Tadpole Director's Report:

This was an extremely unique but great year in the 9U division! We only had 15 kids playing in the spring season. They were divided into 2 teams of 7 or 8 players each. This was down from last season due to COVID-19. We are confident these numbers will come back up.

We had an excellent group of coaches and parent helpers who put in a ton of time and effort to make this a successful season. They worked hard at ensuring the kids were following protocols and kids were keeping their distance all while having fun. A sincere thank you to all those involved during the season.

We managed to divide teams by age and experience and the teams were equally matched, making for a lot of fun games and allowing for the kids to learn the game while they practiced and played. As always, each game ended with a team relay and a cheer for the other team (of course without the handshakes). We did miss out on our year end wind up as we just didn't see how we could make it work with all the rules.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we were unable to do a summer ball team for tadpole this year.

Overall, This was a great season. It was an honour to watch these young players gain solid baseball skills and enjoy time on the field with their buddies. I hope to see them all out again next season.

Terista Mazu

9U Director

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11U/Mosquito Director's Report:

Spring Ball

The 2020 Mosquito Baseball season saw 36 players on 3 teams. Evaluations were held July 27th. The coaches ran different drill stations to help determine the skill of each player so that we could do our best to make the teams as even as possible. Once the evaluations were complete the coaches and I met and held a draft to try and form teams as evenly as possible.

Practices started right away on the 28th of July so that we could get the kids going right away. We practiced for two weeks to start our season. Once games started teams were on the field at least three times a week both practicing and playing. The teams played an 8 game season which turned out to be a hard fought battle between the teams as they were so evenly matched. We then held a playoff on Saturday September 26th that saw the second and third place teams facing off to determine who would face the first place team for the championship. The teams all finished the season off strong with two great games to end the season and the final being decided by a 1 point game.

This season was a really different year. I would like to thank all of the volunteer coaches and those people that helped out to make the season a successful and safe one.

Dan Braddick
Mosquito Director

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13U/Pee Wee Director's Report:

The 2020 Peewee group had approximately 38 players split over 2 A teams and 1 AA team consisting of 12 players. The season started with practices only.

The A teams played each other and had many close games, with both teams ending the season with about a 500 record.

The AA team practiced and was able to play multiple games vs the Kelowna Coyotes and the Salmon Arm Hornets.

All the kids had fun and were grateful to be able to play some games.

This year was a successful Pee Wee season thanks to a great group of coaches at both the A and AA level. We had 3 coaches per team which lead to great player development and kids enjoying the game.

Thanks to all the coaches and the VBA executive for persevering and making the season happen

Robert Holmes

13U Peewee Director

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15U/Bantam Director's Report:

The 2020 Bantam Baseball Season was a difficult one due to the pandemic but we were able to field a great group of kids and coaches to continue to develop their skill and love of the game.

This year we started on July 28th and saw a great group of 6 coaches take the group of 21 Bantam players and break them up into two practice groups that saw the kids practice twice a week and then play one game a week. The kids were sorted into two different teams each week to try and make the teams as even as possible and to get the kids facing and playing with different players each week. This worked out really well and the kids all had a great time playing baseball this season.

Dan Braddick
Bantam Director

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18U/Midget Director's Report:

Welcome to the 2020 Vernon 18U baseball season. 18U baseball is for players from the age of 15 to 18. Baseball at the 18U level is competitive and fast. Home games are played at Marshall Field #1, one of the nicest parks in the Okanagan.

In this division we typically offer two levels of play, the AAA and the AA. The AAA level will have players that will have to try out and be selected to play by the coaching staff. The players selected will need to fully commit to the full season, and the rigorous practise schedule. The schedule consists of a minimum 42 games not including tournament weekends or playoffs. Some of those games will involve travel to the lower mainland and Vancouver Island for 4 game weekends. The AA level plays in a competitive interior inter-lock program. The inter-lock schedule changes year to year, depending on how many teams are registered from each neighbouring city. The AA season is a spring season only, usually consisting of 18 games, with playoffs at the end of June. In special circumstances, AA teams can form a summer team to compete at the provincial level.

Currently we are still looking for coaches for a AA team. Please contact me right away if interested.

Making these programs successful and fun takes a lot of work and we would like to encourage any parents and family members to get involved. Whether it's helping with coaching, field maintenance or driving, getting involved with your child's sports is rewarding for everyone. I'd encourage any players on the fence about playing 18U baseball to email me or call me, and I can answer any questions you may have. The sooner we get our registration numbers together, the easier it will be to form teams, and secure coaching.

Sincerely,
Neil Thompson
18U Director

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