

CUGA Annual General Meeting 2009 Minutes

Edmonton, Alberta

May 15, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 8:25pm

1. Report of votes including proxy votes

Present:

18 members (including 2 executive: Margaret Francis and Melanie Johnson)

Proxy:

10 members (including 1 executive: John Harland)

2. Approval of 2009 CUGA AGM agenda

Additions to the agenda:

Old business – skills registry; grassroots effort; sponsorship

New business – goal for CUGA

Move to accept the approved agenda: Adam Jocksch

2nd : Veronique Seguin

All in favor - approved

3. Approval of 2008 CUGA minutes

Move: Adam Jocksch

2nd : Veronique Seguin

All in favor - approved

4. Executive Reports

A. President – John Harland (see Appendix A)

Report read by Melanie Johnson as John Harland was unable to attend the meeting in person.

B. Vice president's report – Jeff Stanhope (see Appendix B)

No report submitted to be read at the AGM.

C. Treasurer's report – Margaret Francis (see Appendix C)

D. Secretary's report – Melanie Johnson (see Appendix D)

E. Underwater hockey Director report – Myrna Kruger (see Appendix E)

F. Chief Referee's Report – Darryl Brambilla (see Appendix F)

Darryl Brambilla read his report and answered questions about getting referee certification for just deck/time keepers (e.g. parents, people who don't play the sport, parents or other people wanting to get involved, but not interested in getting in the water). He also responded to suggestions about adding information about referee courses to the CUGA website – the main focus at this time will be encouraging people to take refereeing courses.

G. Past President's report – not included; this position was vacant at the time of the AGM

5. Old business

Skills registry

Ben Lee has emailed out a request for information and has had a few responses. He will be sending an email out shortly requesting additional information from people who have skills useful to the underwater hockey community

Sponsorship: chair Jeff Stanhope (no activity over the past year)

Grassroots efforts

No information available from the Grassroots committee (previously Ben Lee, Gilles Duchesne)

Margaret Francis is working on developing a program to sell to pools/schools for introducing teaching of underwater hockey. Margaret Francis is willing to Chair a committee who will work on developing this program.

Mike Bartlett suggested Sean Donovan/Connie Benoiton regarding this type of things as they are developing program with Alberta Underwater Council at this time that may be related to this topic. 'Sears I Can Swim' program has expressed interest in this type of program, but they require documentation. Myrna Kruger indicated there is a program they are using in Calgary "Learn to Play Underwater Hockey" based on the Learn to Swim program with stickers and medals.

Goal is to get something in progress by next year

Action: Email membership requesting committee members for a committee to develop an underwater hockey program for pools/schools.

Action item: Melanie to investigate the NCCP programs and how underwater hockey coaching programs could fit into the NCCP.

Sponsorship committee

Jeff Stanhope is the committee chairperson and there has been no activity on this committee over the past year.

6. New business

Report on 2010 World underwater hockey championships – Margaret Francis

At this time, the World Championships are planned to be in Colombia in 2010 in August. A set date has not yet been established. Margaret Francis is the Chef de Mission for the World Championships and will be sending information out to team managers as soon as it is available.

Note that the following people are team managers for the designated teams:

Women Elite: Melanie Johnson (mel_j@telus.net)

Men Elite: vacant

U18 open team: Arthur Hastings (awfhastings@yahoo.com)

U18 women team: vacant

Men's and women's masters: no team planned at this time; please contact the CUGA secretary if you are interested in working towards sending a masters team to Colombia.

Report on CMAS and WAA – Margaret Francis

There is a new president for the underwater hockey commission of CMAS (Tomas de Trebons of France). He is working on re-uniting CMAS and WAA by submitting a proposal to CMAS to meet some of the requests of WAA (essentially address the issues that caused WAA to separate from CMAS in the first place). A number of countries in Europe get money from their governments due to their affiliation with CMAS and France is one of them.

Some of the issues that will be brought forward to CMAS to be addressed are:

- having juniors and masters at World Championships
- the underwater hockey commission having a budget and receiving some funds from CMAS memberships that come from underwater hockey memberships
- having a separate underwater hockey World Championship rather than the multi-sport CMAS games

Goal for CUGA

Jacques Toupin initiated a discussion about a goal for CUGA. He indicated that there is a need to attract and retain recreational players in underwater hockey. Gerald Harrison and Jacques Toupin will supply information/ideas about retaining players especially as players get older.

Website

Margaret Francis is requesting volunteers to translate information so the CUGA website can be in both English and French. Progress continues in getting all the documents on the website available in both official languages.

Raising income for CUGA

Brief discussion took place about how to raise income (referee courses, increase uptake of insurance). This issue is one that will continue to be addressed by the CUGA Executive.

Trophy issues

Quebec City – maybe has some Nationals trophies from 2008?

Keith Lipsman (BC player) - rookie of the year award; the determination of the recipient of this award is facilitated by the Vancouver club; hasn't been awarded for a few years and should be given out annually (NOTE: this award was given out this year to the Prince George team)

John McBride award– outstanding contributions to underwater hockey; given every 2 years (NOTE: this award was given out this year to Melanie Johnson)

Daniel Tetrault award– now being awarded at a local Montreal tournament, therefore will be retired from being awarded at CUGA Nationals

Action: Committee to determine how to do trophies/awards.

Darryl Brambilla and Adam Jocksch have volunteered to chair this committee
Margaret Francis volunteered to participate on the committee.
Email will be sent to the membership requesting additional committee members

7. Motions

Constitution changes from 2008 that were voted on and approved in 2008 were given a final vote for approval.

Moved: Darryl Branbilla

2nd Adam Jocksch

All in favor - approved

New proposed changes to constitution (essentially eliminating the mention of specific membership fees).

Moved: Adam Jocksch

2nd: Veronique Seguin

All in favor – approved

(Note that this change will be made to the constitution and a final approval will be voted on at the 2010 CUGA AGM)

8. Canadian Nationals 2010

Proposed to be Sherbrooke, Quebec: June 19 and 20

Moved: Margaret Francis

2nd : Jacques Toupin

All in favor – approved

(Ottawa would consider being a backup location if needed)

9. Election of officers

a) President

John Harland declined to run for another term.

Nominated and declined: Melanie Johnson

Nominated and accepted: Adam Jocksch acclaimed to the position

b) Treasurer

Margaret Francis agreed to run for another term and was reappointed to the position.

10. Adjourn meeting

Moved to adjourn: Darryl Brambilla

Seconded: Scott Cannon

Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

Appendix A:
President – John Harland

Thank you for putting up with me as president for the past two years. Unfortunately, new family commitments won't allow me to continue on with this role. It is my hope that my successor will have more time and energy to devote to continuing the growth and development of Canadian underwater hockey than I've been able to commit recently. A number of ideas, such as referee compensation, CUGA owned equipment, and increasing the number of CUGA sanctioned tournaments, have been discussed within the CUGA executive in the past few years. Some of the groundwork in developing these ideas has been laid, some haven't gotten out of the conceptual stage. I regret not being able to devote more time and attention to these ideas.

As I've talked about before, CUGA continues to strive to improve underwater hockey in Canada, while trying not to interfere too much with how clubs run themselves. Ideas are always welcome. Ideas AND volunteering to help see them through will almost never be turned down. If you have any ideas that you feel would improve how CUGA operates, and how effectively CUGA supports and encourages underwater hockey within Canada, please discuss the idea with me (I'll still be a part of the executive, as Past President) or anyone else on the executive.

Thanks again for your support over the last two years.

John

Appendix B:
Vice President – Jeff Stanhope

Greetings from the Vice-President,

The majority of my efforts in UWH in 2008 centered around the hosting of Nationals in Guelph.

A small turnout and a last minute pool change did not stop the tournament from running smoothly over the weekend of June 6-8. A referee payment program was trialed successfully, a first at a Canadian Championship. Healthy competition in the A division was offset by insufficient registration in the B division. The lack of B level participation at Nationals is a concern that needs to be addressed. Hopefully we can work on a strategy to address this issue in the future.

Time did not allow me to take on any other official CUGA business in 2008 but I kept active in the discussion on issues ranging from refereeing and national team business to our relationship with CMAS and the newly created WAA. Hopefully 2009 will allow more time to participate and grow the sport we all love.

It is with regret that I comment on another President's end of term. John Harland's dedication to UWH and innovative spirit added a positive dynamic to the executive, guiding us with consistency and integrity during his tenure. I look forward to our continued collaboration within CUGA during John's term as Past-President.

Yours in UWH,

Jeff Stanhope.

Appendix C:
Treasurer – Margaret Francis

To the CUGA membership

2008 saw a decrease in funding for CUGA mostly in the levy income due to smaller attendance at CUGA sanctioned tournaments. With the cost of traveling going up and more tournaments in local areas, players are opting not to travel. Memberships are directly tied into tournament attendance, and with smaller tournaments, it means smaller membership income.

Our insurance policy has not changed in price in the last 3 years and hopefully this year it will not go up.

The main account has 3 main sources of income: levies, memberships and referee courses. The main account has 3 main expenses to cover each year: insurance, WAA fees and CMAS fees.

At this time, there are some politics happening that may see WAA and CMAS combine or WAA going on with being a separate organization. We anticipate we should know how this will affect CUGA by the summer of 2009.

In the meantime, we need to find ways of increasing our attendance at our tournament, or find alternate ways of funding for CUGA or we will not be able to cover our fees in the future.

The team accounts are balanced. I have submitted to the membership an updated team accounts policy to try to avoid future problems with the management of the account (note that this policy is available on the CUGA website and translation into French is pending). For the 2008 team, we once again saw last minute organization by some teams that resulted in deposits not being made and players went to Worlds still owing money.

For the team account to work properly, CUGA needs to ensure that all players money has been deposited and cleared before the players go to Worlds. The penalties need to be enforced better, to avoid players owing money and not paying until months after Worlds. Also, expenses need to be submitted before Worlds, and not be submitted months afterwards. Both scenarios result in large delays of team refunds, which is not fair to the players.

The team accounts were available at Nationals for inspection. Arthur Hastings volunteered to check the accounts at Nationals for an audit and this was done.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me at: margaretf Francis@shaw.ca

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Francis

Appendix D:
Secretary – Melanie Johnson

As secretary, my main role with CUGA is communication with the membership using the Canadian underwater hockey mailing list.

This past year (2008-2009) was the second year of the CUGA executive updates. I facilitated the 2-3 updates sent out over the past 12 months informing the CUGA membership of the activities of the executive and requesting input and comments.

As Secretary, I also facilitated the voting on selectors, coaches and team managers for the Worlds teams for 2010, Colombia. Thank you to the Worlds teams from 2008 who participated in the voting process to ensure continuity for the leadership of the next World teams from Canada.

Changes to the constitution that were voted on in 2007 and were confirmed in 2008 were updated in the Constitution posted to the website (thank you to Veronique Seguin who did the French translation). Changes to the Constitution voted on at the 2008 AGM have also been included in the revised Constitution and voting will take place at the 2009 AGM.

The Team Account Policy has also been updated and approved by the Executive. The main update is that the amount of money that has to be deposited into the team account at 5 months prior to Worlds has increased from \$1000 to \$1500 as this amount is typically necessary to cover team expenses (accommodation during World championships, track suits, swim suits, water polo caps, referee fees, etc.). Please see the updated document selection document (English and French) and Team Account Policy (English only; French translation pending) on the CUGA website for further information.

I encourage any member with questions about anything to do with underwater hockey in Canada to contact me or any other members of the Executive.

Melanie Johnson
CUGA Secretary

Appendix E:
Underwater Hockey Director – Myrna Kruger

1) World Championship age eligibility

Darryl Brambilla and I have been working on an appeal to change the age eligibility from U18 back to U19. This age change was voted on at the 2008 Worlds in SA. We did not get very far with it. This is something we will have to bring up at Worlds 2010.

Below is a recap of the information that was sent out:

There has been official communications sent in to appeal the ruling to the WAA. The appeal essentially reads as follows: The introduction of the rule change regarding changing the U19 division to a U18 division at the 2008 World Championships should be rescinded. Some of the primary reasons for the rule change were due to adults and juniors playing together in the same division and also due to concerns regarding legal issues with alcohol. The rule change has had no effect on either of these 2 scenarios for the following reasons:

1) Adults / Juniors in the same division – A player must be 17 years of age on January 1st of a Worlds year. This means that a player could effectively be 18 years of age (an adult) as they could turn 18 anytime before the start of a World Championship.

2) Alcohol – Each country has differing laws with regards to alcohol and in fact some countries do not allow drinking until the age of 21. This means that even a player who is 18 – 20 years of age could be considered a minor and fall under the same problems that have been presented previously with younger players. The only way to effectively deal with this is to leave it up to the organizing country to enforce certain rules, and also put the ownership upon team managers / coaches to control their players in this regard. The discussion of alcohol related concerns has nothing to do with the qualifying age of participating in a World Championship division.

3) The change in the date has now put the future of retaining our youth players in jeopardy. This is largely due to the fact that it will be even more difficult for youth players having no choice but to try and make the Elite division at an age as young as 18 years old because they will no longer qualify for the youth division. This is a direct negative effect on retaining youth players and having them come up into our Elite divisions in future years thus impacting our sport overall and not just the youth division.

The 2 options proposed are as follows:

1) With WAA standardizing the dates now for the World Championships every year to the July timeframe, it would be easy to change back to a U19 division but ensure that a player will be 18 yrs of age either on the first or last day of competition.

2) Introduction of a new U23 division to bridge the gap between Junior and Elite. The players in this division must be between the ages of 18 and 22 years of age

The first option is the preferred option as it has the least impact overall (the 2nd option will involve additional scheduling / pool time availability for a new division). I propose that these proposals go out to the federations to vote upon ASAP so as to implement the changes before the 2010 WC's and that all countries have time to prepare.

If Option #1 passes then Option #2 can be dropped, or, if people feel this is a good idea as well we may wish to introduce a new division as well and have both changes in place. In terms of the outline requirements for 2010 we must go by the current guidelines at this time and that is that a player cannot be 18 yrs of age as of Jan 1, 2010 in order to qualify for the Worlds Junior division. If the appeal goes through before then we will make a formal announcement.

2) Along with the San Francisco Sea Lions I was able to help organize the First North American Children's Tournament. This tournament was held during the second weekend of May in SF. We had 29 youths attend, 10 from Calgary and 19 from around the States with ages ranging from 7 yrs - 12 yrs of age. It was a huge success and I look forward to doing it again next year.

Myrna Kruger

Appendix F:
Chief Referee's Report – Darryl Brambilla

Level 1 course – Redesigned last year and now also translated into French. French course instructor still to come (Vero Seguin from Ottawa has expressed interest).

I attended the following tournaments to further promote refereeing in Canada:

Montreal - November

Calgary – February

Guelph - March

Quebec City – April

Edmonton – Canadian Nationals – May

The new level 1 referee course was provided at the Calgary tournament and I certified 10 new level 1 referees. I also attended QC tournament and certified 9 new referees. As well, I designed a custom player / rules refresher course that is available for players simply wanting a refresher on the new and updated rules. I encourage all players to take one of these courses to continue improving our sport on all levels.

Level 2 / 3 Referee courses are now being changed into a new format (Deck / Timekeeper / Scorekeeper, and Water Referee). This is being done largely because we have many people who are very qualified to referee on land but have no interest providing in water reffing. As well, we notice as many of our refs get older they find they are better serving on deck rather in the water due to fitness levels.

The level 2 course has now been completed for the Deck Referee / Timekeeper / Scorekeeper portion. Still developing the Water Referee course and will be redesigned later this year once I have a little more time. Once the course has been rewritten I will be posting information to hockey.net in terms of scheduling a level 2 course for those who may qualify.

I am also looking to modernize the way referees keep track of their games. Currently we keep track of games by use of a logbook which many times becomes wet and damaged, or lost in transport. I plan to look at the custom development of a website in which certified Canadian referees can access to log all of their games. This will keep your historical information online and also be of use to tournament organizers looking to find qualified referees with experience and bring them to future tournaments.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks!

Darryl Brambilla

Chief Referee - Canada