

# Sun Cities Senior Softball League Joint Board

Meeting Minutes from December 21, 2005

**Board Members Present:** Bill Allen, Bill Buxton, Glen Carroll, Linda Graham for Mike Graham, Jim McGuire, and Bob Stouthamer, Larry Kuberka for Bill Nyblade, Ken Doyle for Ira Mallory

**Guests Present:** Ray Early, Ken Skinner, John Doherty and Ron Blackwell

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Stouthamer at 9:00 AM. The meeting minutes had been approved electronically, but were verbally approved

## Committee Reports:

### · National League Committee –

- Bill Nyblade was absent so Glenn Carroll presented. The make-up of the new National League Committee is: Bill Nyblade, Roy Nelson, Glenn Carroll and Rich McAndrews. There will be 13 teams in the next session. The National League schedule for the next session is January 17 through April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Board approved the schedule start and end dates to be the same for the American and National Leagues. Summer session will begin April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### · American League Committee:

- Ron Blackwell presented information regarding safety and the position of the sun at the Sun City field in the mornings. Following some discussion, the board voted to move the American League game starts times to 9:00 A.M. beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ron Blackwell reported on the draft, which will be held on January 6th. Players are coming and going daily. The American League Committee will work closely with the National League Committee to let them know about players who were not drafted and are choosing to go to the National League. This will happen on the same day as the draft. Players not drafted may choose to stay in the American League placement pool instead of being placed in the National League.
- Ken Skinner notified the board about 2 new ASA rule changes for 2006. The first rule describes a foul tip. It was determined that a change to American and National League rules would be made to allow the current determination of a foul ball or foul tip to stay the same. That is, if a foul ball back to the catcher **is above the batters head** and is caught, it is an out. The second rule, which will be adopted and advertised, is that a mitt, meaning a first baseman or catcher's mitt may be used in any position on the field.
- Ron Blackwell reported that there has been a concern about the intentional walks in the American League. It was suggested that rather than pointing to first base for a batter to walk, a pitcher could pitch to them. It was also stated that to keep the game moving, if it was the intent to walk someone, don't take the extra time to pitch to them. Peg Swanson has reviewed many score sheets and has spoken with every American League manager. Every manager wanted to leave things as they are now and make no new rules about intentional walks

- **Equipment and Supplies Committee** –Ray Early has had conversations with the sponsor of Sunshine Sprinkler, now know as Sunshine Irrigation, about replacement of their jerseys. The sponsor has indicated that they would be willing to pay the \$450 charged for a new sponsor since the replacement of the jerseys is not due until 2007. Bob Stouthamer stated that since Sunshine is a Sun City sponsor, it would be up to the Club to decide on supporting any additional cost for new jerseys. Another issue may be the color of the jerseys. The current color may not be standard so may take until March to get them. Ray is waiting for a call back from the sponsor and will include Bill Buxton in further communications.

## Old Business

- **Hall of Fame Etched Glass pyramids**: Sun City Softball Club voted to not purchase the etched glass pyramids for past inductees. Ken Skinner stated that since one club was not interested, none would be purchased for either club for past inductees. Bob Stouthamer volunteered to check into a similar pyramid for presentation to future inductees. The plaque may be replaced in 2006 or maybe not until 2007.
- **Tri City Questionnaire**: There is still a spark of interest in forming a multi-city league and as long as there is any interest, it was felt the idea should be pursued. Only 34 members showed any interest. Mike Graham will contact Joe Carrucci at Grand to see what their current interest is.
- **Banquet Questionnaire**: There was only a small response. The survey indicates that there is not much interest in changing from the current format. That being before the league ends; casual; middle of the day; \$10-20; not on Tuesday or Thursday. A comment from a survey suggested getting a guest speaker, one that may draw more attendees. Bob Stouthamer suggested that to gain attendance maybe it is necessary to try something very different.
- **Next SCSSL Board Construction**: Bob Stouthamer requested that the document describing the SCSSL Board be updated to reflect the new structure of the Board with 5 rather than 8 members. Each Club before the next Board meeting will determine the members of the new board. Bob Stouthamer will attend the next Board meeting with a proposed agenda to get the new Board started.
- **2006 SCSSL Meeting locations and dates**: Meetings are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9 A.M. at the meeting room located in the Bowling Center at Bell Rec. Center, located at 99<sup>th</sup> Ave, and Bell Road, Sun City.

## New Business:

- **Illegal and altered bats**: John Doherty opened the discussion. Proposed language was presented and discussed. The need to differentiate between illegal and altered bats was stated. It was decided that a copy of the ASA non-approved bats list, including colored pictures, would be available at each field as a reference for illegal bats. A copy of the approved bats will also be at each field since many players need assistance in purchasing new equipment. Ken Skinner provided suggestions about modifying ASA language describing altered bats to allow for the “arthritic grips”, attachment of name labels or etching of player names for identification. The text of the document will be re-worked by the American League committee and brought back to the board, as this is not just an American League concern, but also a concern for all play, including women’s leagues. New wording should include” enhanced

- **Process for evaluating new players and correspondence received stating a concern about how the process does not appear to be working:** John Doherty opened the discussion. Glenn Carroll stated that the manager of the Green Team has committed to making sure new players get to play as much of a game as they want to and play positions other than catcher. Bill Buxton further explained that new players are strongly encouraged to attend the open practices in Sun City held before the Green Team Games to get more batting and fielding practice. It was decided to leave the process as is with a stronger commitment to follow it. It was restated that any new player needs to attend 2 Green Team games and 2 of Loran's practices, not in any order. In addition, the manager of the Green Team will make a recommendation as to League assignment. Representatives from American and National League committees are expected to attend Green Team games and Loran's practices to help evaluate new players. Glenn will get together with Loran to work through this process.
- **A Christmas tournament** will be held for National Leaguers December 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Liberty Field. Four teams have been put together. Play will be on those dates at 10 and 11:10 A.M.
- **Document with the American League Committee Functions and Duties** presented by Bill Allen as approved Nov. 16, 2005.
- **Hall of Fame Report** –Ken Skinner has delivered the ballot boxes to the fields and they will be made available by January 3. A list of eligible players will be kept at each field. Ken described the process for determination of Hall of Fame inductees. The banquet has been moved up to March 24<sup>th</sup>, a Friday, at Palm Ridge. Ken also advised new board members present as well as others that he will use the email list to send information pertinent to the league. Just send article to him and he will send the text as is on to members of the list, which includes league members or anyone else that has an interest.

**Correspondence:** None this month.

**Non-scheduled items: From floor:**

- Ray Early asked for a clarification of the uniform rules during cold weather. Many variations of jackets, sweatshirts, shirts and sweat pants are common. Ken Doyle read the National League rules about uniforms which allows for "protective clothing" to be worn on cold or inclement weather days, with the approval of the opposing managers. Glenn Carroll states the manager agreement has caused no problems. Some felt the adoption of the "protective clothing" wording would be okay, but no action was taken to make an official change. If there is an isolated problem with a player, that player will be contacted directly. Further discussion pointed out that the uniform rule was being applied inconsistently. No resolution to this was agreed to.

Our Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18 at 9:00 in the meeting room in the Bell rec. center bowling alley

Respectfully submitted, Linda Graham