

## **Titans Water Polo Executive Team Tuesday, February 7, 2006**

On-deck classroom, Nepean Sportsplex

Present: Pierre Tremblay, President  
Carolyn McGill, Communications/Secretary  
Doug Hodgson, Treasurer  
Nicole Le Saux, Special Events Director  
Paul Massel, Facilities Director  
Hurd Stein, Competitive Program Director

Call to order at 7:45 p.m.

### **Review of Agenda**

### **Reports**

#### **President**

##### 1. 2006-07 Executive

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre asked members to consider their plans for next year, in preparation for an Executive recruitment message going out to the membership. Nicole will develop a proposal on dividing the Special Events Director position into two new positions.

##### 2. Meeting with Minister of Health Promotion Jim Watson

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre recently attended a town hall meeting to discuss issues related to healthy lifestyles, including infrastructure, accessibility and affordability. Sports and health infrastructures will be on the table at an upcoming federal/provincial Ministers meeting.

##### 3. Access to School Facilities

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre advised members there is a new program that subsidizes access to space in schools. The Titans will look for opportunities to take advantage of this (e.g. for year-end banquet or for fundraiser events).

##### 4. LSS Swim Program Media Launch, March 24

*Information/Discussion:* The City of Ottawa is switching from the Red Cross system to the Life Saving Society's learn to swim program. Nicole noted that this will require a change to the ILWP brochure, which refers to Red Cross levels.

The Titans have been invited to do a water polo demonstration at the media launch of the LSS program at Saw Mill Creek on the afternoon of Friday, March 24. Members agreed this is a good promotional opportunity.

**Action:** Pierre will learn more about the event.

#### 5. Tournament Invitations

*Information/Discussion:* The Titans have received information about:

- Coupe Quebec-Ontario, May 26-28: for the 4 best cadet teams from each province
- A bantam tournament in Slovakia, August 18-20

This information will be forwarded to the appropriate teams.

#### 6. Fundraising Update

*Information/Discussion:* The Titans made \$670 profit from the sale of 67's tickets. Members turned in about 100 ink cartridges for Ink-a-Dream during the Titans Cup. As a Titans Cup sponsor, Aquam paid the club \$100 in cash and contributed 2 sets of caps (worth approximately \$200 each).

The fundraising committee will meet next week to discuss next steps.

Patti Hutton has again qualified for a Bell employee volunteer grant of \$500. Patti referred members to the Bell-sponsored web site: [www.truesport.ca](http://www.truesport.ca).

#### 7. Discussion with Hull Water Polo

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre spoke to Ginette Murray, President of Hull Water Polo, during the Titans Cup weekend. They agreed it is a priority to improve communications and to restore scrimmages between our clubs.

#### 8. York Tournament Behaviour

*Information/Discussion:* The Disciplinary Committee met with athletes and parents, following a behaviour report from the trip to the York Cadet Invitational. The meeting became a discussion on issues of respect. The athletes were asked to prepare a submission on how chaperone policies should be age-appropriate and respectful of the athletes.

#### 9. Titans Alumni

*Information/Discussion:* Patti Hutton suggested that the Titans offer a membership to alumni, which would allow athletes to stay in touch with the club and take part in occasional practices.

*Action:* Pierre will consult David about how coaches might accommodate alumni drop-ins at practices.

#### 10. Chaperone Policy

*Information/Discussion:* The Titans currently have only guidelines and common practices. Paul and Nicole will form a working group to consult and develop a club chaperone policy.

#### 11. Meeting with Coaches, February 9

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre and Hurd will meet with Titans coaches: to thank them, and to discuss development opportunities and communications.

## **Competitive Program**

### 1. Ethics Course

*Information/Discussion:* This course will take place February 28 at the Nepean Sportsplex, 6-9:30 p.m. The Titans will pay the cost for our own coaches (\$50 each).

### 2. Head Coach's Report

*Information/Discussion:* David submitted by email a discussion paper about possible competitive program structure for next season. Pierre and Hurd will review it with David.

### 3. Head Coach's Attendance at Nationals

*Information/Discussion:* David will be sponsored by Water Polo Canada to attend Cadet and Youth Women's Nationals. Titans team members will pay the costs for David to attend Cadet and Youth Men's Nationals.

### 4. Cadet Boys B Competitions

*Information/Discussion:* This team has no competitive events scheduled for the rest of the season after provincials, Feb. 16-18.

*Action:* Hurd will follow-up with David on this issue.

### 5. OWWPL Fee Structure

*Information/Discussion:* Carleton University, University of Ottawa and the Titans have each contributed pool time for league games. Hurd has not seen a budget; but Titans athletes have not been asked to pay cash for their participation in the OWWPL.

## **Finance Director**

*Information/Discussion:* Doug reported that Ed is still collecting information for the break even and cash flow report.

## **Treasurer**

### 1. Mid-Year Refunds and New Member Fees

*Information/Discussion:* Doug has been applying the new formula for determining fees for athletes joining the competitive program as new members, or moving up from ILWP mid-season; and also for refunds to athletes leaving the program. There is a \$100 non-refundable administration fee. Doug is working on the information package for new competitive program members.

*Decision:* The new late registration/refund policy is adopted.

### 2. ILWP and Loblaws Program

*Information/Discussion:* About 20 ILWP families have bought Loblaws gift cards. There are logistical problems and the club is paying the bookkeeper extra for her time on this issue. This is taken as information towards determining the ILWP fee structure for 2006-07.

## **ILWP**

*Information/Discussion:* The Program Director submitted a written report, which is attached. Pierre added that training referees for ILWP and competitive water polo will be a priority for next year.

## **Special Events**

### **1. Titans Cup**

*Information/Discussion:* Members congratulated Nicole on the superb organization of the event. The final financial report is not yet available. Discussion of issues/lessons learned:

- "Town hall" meetings for volunteers were very productive.
- For next year, consider having a bigger developmental tournament, as we turned away 4 interested teams.
- Writing up game sheets by hand takes far too much time. The club should promote the electronic system and train people to use it.
- Shot clocks are a source of stress: one set needs to be plugged in the night before, and if they are unplugged, or the breaker is turned off, they lose power part way through a game. The wireless shot clocks require an uninterrupted line of sight for the remote, and don't blank out under 30 seconds.

### **2. Summer Camp**

*Information/Discussion:* Nicole reported on a number of special guests and plans to make the camp attractive, even to athletes who have been coming for a number of years. Pool space may still be a challenge. Older athletes will receive a personal LTAD program.

### **3. Awards Banquet**

*Information/Discussion:* Initial steps have been made towards finding a location and caterer.

### **4. Academy Intake**

*Information/Discussion:* This program is referred to the ILWP Director.

### **5. Stay in Shape**

*Information/Discussion:* Paul Hébert will coordinate Stay in Shape again in 2006.

## **Communications**

*Information/Discussion:* Carolyn submitted a written report, which is attached.

## **Facilities Coordinator**

*Information/Discussion:* Paul reported that he is making frequent changes to the web site calendar. Members are reminded both to send him their changes; and to check the calendar for updates.

The club is now using a half an hour less pool time on Sunday nights, due to the shortened ILWP League Night schedule.

Paul has drafted a preliminary pool costs model (included NLS costs), as requested by Ed. It needs more refinements, such as accounting for tournaments. Points of discussion related to pool costs:

- Costs for the University of Ottawa pool will increase 5% next season. The Titans receive a discount from the basic fee, based on the number of hours we use.
- There is supposed to be a centralized city pool allocation formula in the near future, with allocation proportional to the size of the club. This new model will be gradually introduced.

Adjourn at: 10:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 6, 2006

### **Outstanding Action Items**

1. Paul to seek a second opinion on a new auditor for 2005-06
2. Hurd to organize sessions on drug use, and ask Guy Tanguay to get Health Canada brochures for all members of the competitive program.
3. Hurd to provide a consolidated tournament plan for all teams
4. Hurd to track NLS, First Aid, CPR qualifications, pool orientations for coaches
5. Pierre to draft policy on wearing goggles in ILWP
6. Hurd to bring forward a detailed plan for partnership building related to the proposed new water polo association.
7. Pierre to revise tournament policy to encourage East end and West end pick-ups and drop-offs
8. Paul to write to the City recreation department to confirm the information in a notice about an unbudgeted 2% increase in pool fees. Paul to also confirm whether this increase is also meant to apply to NLS fees.
9. As input to the Finance Director's cash flow report, Deb to begin tracking monthly ILWP and competitive registration numbers; including any ILWP transfers to the competitive program by date.
10. Deb and Doug to develop a transfer package for new athletes moving to the competitive program partway through the season (from ILWP or from outside the club).
11. As input to the cash flow report, Paul to provide Ed with a monthly forecast of pool time and pool cost actuals to date, for both the ILWP and competitive programs

### **Items to be brought forward**

1. **(BF – September 06)** Organize a session on bullying for competitive program members
2. **(BF – September 06)** Organize a session on healthy lifestyles for competitive program members

## ILWP Report to Executive February 7, 2006

### 2006 ILWP Winter/ Spring Program

- ILWP Winter/ Spring session is well underway.
- As of February 7, there are 120 registrations confirmed for this session so far, and calls are still coming in about possible new registrations. New players are encouraged to try it out and then register. Registration is broken down as follows:
  - Walter Baker- 18
  - St-Laurent- 14
  - Ray Friel- 11
  - Pinecrest- 19
  - Orleans- 18
  - Goulbourn- 21
  - Brewer- 19
- Teams are much more balanced this session in terms of numbers. Ray Friel is lower than the rest, but it is still their first year. The coach and team manager continue to recruit new players, encourage current players to bring a friend, etc.
- We have 49 females and 70 males registered. Age breakdown: 18 born in 1992; 24 born in 1993; 27 born in 1994; 23 born in 1995; 15 born in 1996; 11 born in 1997; 2 born in 1998. There are 18 brand new players this session, and the good news is that they are entering the program at a younger age. We will have the same number graduating from ILWP this year as last year, but after that, the average age is much lower ( this means we can potentially keep them in the program longer. It also provides more opportunities for recruitment into Academy).
- With 120 registrations for winter/ spring, we are exceeding our target registration for the winter/ spring session by 10 players (last year's fall/ winter session had 105 players. This is a 14.3% increase. With decreased costs as a result of the folding of Sawmill Creek and SJCC teams, this will help the ILWP budget considerably.
- Roughly 50 Ottawa 67s tickets were sold through the ILWP program, for revenues to ILWP of \$150.
- As usual at this time of year, it is getting difficult to recruit ILWP referees for Sunday League Games, mostly because our older players (who referee for us) are participating in out-of-town tournaments. We should try to increase the base of potential ILWP referees next year, and encourage more Cadet/ Youth to take the clinic in September. Even if we could call on them occasionally (not every week), it would be a big help. Potential for having more parents involved as referees. Two parents took the clinic and are reffing this year (they already have to come to drive their kids, so it makes sense).
- ***Executive: still waiting for a policy to be drafted on use of goggles. This should perhaps be run by a lawyer, as it involves liability.***
- ***Executive: still waiting for a policy to be drafted for late registrations and for refunds (the refund issue came up a few times this fall). \*\*\* The Late***

*Titans Water Polo Executive  
February 7, 2006*

***Registration Policy is required soon, as we are still using the old one until further notice, and it is really outdated!!!***

## **Teen Polo Program**

- Program was launched on Friday, January 13.
- Coed program for teens born 1989-1991, starting January 27. Cost is \$160 for 14 weeks of practices. Pool time is Friday evenings, 6:30-8pm at Sawmill Creek. Aaron Kennedy will coach.
- As of February 7, there are 12 players registered and one more pending (6 females and 7 males). It allows the program to break even. Aaron would like to recruit more players so that they can have full scrimmages. He reports that the first two practices have gone very well.
- Many comments from parents of current final-year ILWP players that they look forward to their kids playing in this program next year.

## **Camps Report**

- **March Break Camp: *Paul Massel*:** Pool time has been confirmed for ***March Break Camp, March 14, 15, 16, 6:30-10pm, sections 6 and 7***. Last year Jim moved his public swims successfully to the shallow end, and it worked well for everyone). Deanna to create budget once David has confirmed that he has coaching staff available (they have been approached). Deanna to work with David on theme, and then complete flyer and distribute to club members.
- **Summer Camp:**
  - Pool time has been confirmed by NSP for the week of August 21-15 (Cadet/Youth start Sunday, August 20 with an evening pool session).
  - Draft program and budget have been presented to Executive and approved (with thanks!).
  - Deanna and David working to line up both coaches and guest clinicians/speakers.
  - Hard copy brochures were distributed to out-of-town players at both Titans Cup and Cadet Invitational tournaments the last two weekends. Deanna approached by many parents at these tournament asking if they should get forms in early. This is a good indicator for another successful year!
  - An electronic brochure was distributed by Carolyn McGill last week.
  - A number of parents have already come forward to offer billeting to out-of-town players (new host families). Billeting is important to the success of camp. We basically reach break-even budget-wise with our own players, and then fill the camp the remainder of the way with visiting players (most of whom require billeting.)
  - Already three registrations in (all local players)

Respectfully submitted, Deanna Barry, Program Manager

*Titans Water Polo Executive  
February 7, 2006*

## **Communications Report**

To Titans Executive  
From Carolyn McGill  
February 6, 2006

### *Web Site*

John Chinneck and I are finalizing the hierarchy for a web site reorganization.

John recommends a FrontPage template that has a clean uncluttered look.

Next steps (from John) are:

- establish the new web site on hypermart in a new directory
- transfer all the information from the old to the new site
- establish a redirect to the new site

We will need some help from Srecko, especially for transferring the calendar function, and for setting up the redirect. Things can run in parallel (both old and new sites function) until we make the switchover (by establishing the redirect).

Much of the content needs to be updated and/or reformatted. This work will proceed in stages. Carolyn will develop a plan for doing this; take a lead on re-writing some of the information; and animate other contributions.

### *Volunteers needed*

#### *1. Web site content editor*

This is a job that can be done from home, using available time. The volunteer should have strong English language skills, but will not have to develop content, so even someone new to the Titans is eligible.

Duties:

- Edit /re-write items for the web site news area, following a few simple guidelines
- Proof-read/edit new and revised web site content

#### *2. Newsletter assistant or co-editor*

Duties

- Develop and animate content
- Bring some fresh ideas to the News Waves
- Consider taking on the job of editor (eventually)

Carolyn McGill

*Titans Water Polo Executive  
February 7, 2006*