

## **Titans Water Polo Executive Wednesday, July 5, 2006**

At 676 Mansfield Avenue, Ottawa

In attendance:

1. Pierre Tremblay, President
2. Doug Hodgson, Treasurer
3. Cathie English, ILWP Director
4. Carolyn McGill, Secretary/Communications
5. Deb Wilson, Registrar
6. Paul Massel, Facilities Director
7. Ed Sennema, Finance Director
8. Jean-Philippe Caron, club member

Call to order at 8:10 p.m.

### **1. Review of Agenda**

### **2. Reports**

#### **President**

##### 1. Fundraising Committee Update

*Information/Discussion:* The Titans are working toward having a submission ready for the Ontario Trillium Foundation's November 1 deadline. The draft sponsorship package is ready for review by an expert who can advise on sponsorship levels.

##### 2. Succession Planning

*Information/Discussion:* J-P Caron and Alka Steenkamer have come forward as candidates for President and Secretary, respectively.

Key positions to recruit for:

- Treasurer – Doug and Ed outlined some possible strategies to reduce time required of this volunteer: payments through Mastercard, better reporting templates, more use of Fedex, and/or having another volunteer pick up and sort mail. A team treasurers model was discussed, but rejected because the Titans' strong centralized system stands up better to yearly audits.  
*Action:* Ed to contact several card services to compare their fees and see if any have a program for non-profits.
- Newsletter Editor
- Web Site Editor
- Team Managers –for all competitive teams

*Action:* Carolyn to invite parents to volunteer in the June-July Newsletter

### 3. OWPA AGM

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre reported on the OWPA AGM in Toronto on June 24. He found it a very rewarding and affirming experience, and said the Titans should be proud of their strength and leadership as a club. The OWPA will post all member club annual reports on its web site.

A workshop by David Hart on LTPAD, and another by David and Deanna Barry on ILWP, were very well received. Doug Hodgson was named the Titans' volunteer of the year.

Paul asked about the OWPA's announcement of "Operation 5000", an initiative aimed at increasing the number of water polo players in the province from 1800 to 5000 by 2010, with reference to the fact that pool accessibility put limits on growth. Pierre reported that some smaller centres, including Cornwall, might build new teams.

### 4. Constitution and By-Laws

*Information/Discussion:* On advice from the auditors, Ed recommended that the club by-laws be revised to include fraud protection language, specifically guidelines related to Executive members receiving remuneration from the club, and to club employees consequently serving on the Executive.

Members discussed a process and timeline for a larger Constitution and By-laws revision.

*Action:* Carolyn to circulate the draft revision from September 2005, and the current by-law related to revisions.

A current By-law states: *No person may be nominated for, acclaimed to or elected to the position of President unless that person has served as an Officer or Director of the Association for at least one year during the preceding two years.*

*Decision:* The Executive will not seek a revision to this by-law prior to the Titans' 2006 AGM, but instead will recommend that the membership make an exception in accepting J-P Caron as a nominee for President.

### 5. Removal of Water Polo Nets

*Information/Discussion:* The Orleans Recreation and Ray Friel Centres have asked the Titans to remove their ILWP nets for the summer.

*Action:* Carolyn to advertise in the Newsletter for a member who can move the nets to storage.

### 6. Athlete Representatives to the Executive

*Information/Discussion:* Ed proposed that the Titans have male and female athlete representatives to the Executive. Members support implementation in September.

### 7. Travel Policy Update

*Information/Discussion:* This is still in progress. Ed advised that the policy should not include actual per diems, which may be revised from time to time, but should refer to the current worksheet.

## Special Events

### 1. Academy Intake

*Information/Discussion:* The program was well organized and well received by parents and athletes. The Titans successfully recruited to Academy and Cadet B teams.

### 2. Canadian Junior Women vs. New Zealand, July 23

*Information/Discussion:* David Hart requested that the Titans' provide pool time at the Sportsplex on July 23 for this special event. The athletes will offer a free girls' clinic for the first hour of the usual Stay in Shape time; the second hour and an additional half hour would be given to an exhibition game, with free admission.

*Decision:* The Titans will support this special event.

### 3. Stay in Shape

*Information/Discussion:* Participant numbers are down from last year because of more competition from other water polo programs, but the program is still likely to break even. Two sessions had to be cancelled on short notice. The Sportsplex provided the Titans with a contract for the dates, even though a swim meet had been previously scheduled.

### 4. Summer Camp

*Information/Discussion:* Some out-of-town female athletes are on a waiting list for the Titans summer camp because of a lack of billets. The summer Newsletter will include an ad for host families.

### 5. Polo-Tech Water Polo School

*Information/Discussion:* The program is currently underway, with about 20 participants.

### 6. Cadet B Invitational

*Information/Discussion:* David Hart has proposed that the Titans host a Cadet B tournament, as a motivational opportunity for our athletes.

*Action:* David to research and report to the Executive on the market for such an event.

## Communications

### 1. Volunteer Count and Survey

*Information/Discussion:* The OWPA has offered a cash incentive for clubs to report on their numbers of volunteers. Carolyn and Deb have been working on this, and have about 140 names so far.

Carolyn received 57 responses to the volunteer survey, and will prepare a summary report for the Executive and membership.

### 2. Newsletter and Web-Site

*Information/Discussion:* Carolyn has proposed that, unless an assistant or new editor comes forward, she should suspend publication of the Newsletter and focus solely on the Titans' web site. A decision is deferred awaiting results of the recruiting drive.

### **Finance Director**

*Information/Discussion:* As input to the 2006-07 budget, Ed requested figures for special events, Teen Polo, and a pool use forecast for the competitive program. OWPA member and club fees will stay the same for next year. The OWPA has said it will support performance training in Ottawa, but the terms of this support are not yet clear.

### **Treasurer**

*Information/Discussion:* Pierre's OPWA AGM report mentioned that the \$500 OWPA subsidy for hosting provincials will not be offered next year. Doug and Ed said that the Titans did not receive money from OWPA for hosting the Bantam provincials.

*Action:* Doug to follow-up with OWPA.

### **Registrar**

*Information/Discussion:* Deb recently registered some additional adult recreational players.

The Titans' policy for sharing personal information about members was affirmed. Deb is revising registration forms and information to clarify related issues to the membership.

*Action:* David to provide the list of invited Academy Intake athletes to Deb, so she can prepare registration packages.

### **Competitive Program**

#### 1. New Team Names

*Information/Discussion:* New team names for the Titans' Cadet A, B and Youth teams were recently announced.

#### 2. Competitive Program 2006-07

*Information/Discussion:* Prior to the meeting, Hurd provided the Executive with a written proposal for the competitive program next season.

In the interim, Paul learned the results of the City's review process for pool allocations. The process affirmed the inequities between allocations to the 23 aquatics clubs in the City, but plans for re-allocation were based on a formula that assumed that some clubs had more time than they needed. This proved to be a false assumption, so the formula can't be applied, and there will be no change to the allocations for next year. As the Titans expect to have more Cadet and Youth athletes next season, this puts both our core programs and plans for expansion at risk.

In the short term, Pierre and Paul are looking for any additional pool time at all suitable City pools; and exploring a possible partnership with the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees men's water polo, which would benefit the older boys' programs in the same way as the youth girls' arrangement with the Carleton University Ravens.

Decisions on the competitive program are deferred pending more information. Options discussed:

- Do not implement proposed new programs
- Offer different total pool time for different teams

- Rent school gyms for dry land training
- Encourage athletes to do length swimming outside of water polo practices; ask the city for a special pass for our athletes or approach the NKB swim club

Political avenues:

- Lobby the City for a change to the re-allocation formula, perhaps in alliance with other aquatics clubs
- Form an aquatics club alliance and rationalize resources
- Look at actual use of the Sportsplex pool to see if it is in line with its intended use as a competitive aquatics facility

Members discussed issues related to OWPL participation and the Cadet A and B streams. The OWPL is seen as a very cost effective venue to expose our players to strong opponents. A decision about participation in OWPL next season will be made by the parents, athletes and coaches involved. It will be reiterated at this time that the Titans have no control over the OWPL and its operations: we are strictly guests.

Adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

Next Meeting TBD