

**WRNSC Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday May 20<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Attendees:** 15 voting members.

**Chair:** John Clarke

Venue: The Bauer Kitchen in Waterloo. Most attendees present for both the dinner and meeting..

**Meeting was called to order by John Clarke at 6:30pm.**

In his opening address John expressed appreciation for all of the volunteers who made this season possible. The club had another very successful season with a full slate of programs. Highlights included the Orion race series, growth in our youth programs, successful Snow Carnival, a new accounting system and additional use of social media. This year the club is also implementing the practice of preparing a preliminary budget at time of the AGM to allow for better and more timely planning.

The Program Reports were then presented.

Detailed written reports were distributed to accompany most program presentations. Major items and recommendations were as follows.

**1. Ski Rentals::** Eva provided a report showing rental demographics for the last 12 seasons. This year only one Special Olympic athlete required rental because all of the others have purchased equipment. An equipment review was conducted prior to the season and as a result some old equipment was thrown out while other equipment was repaired. Rental income for last season was \$3,565.

**Recommendations:**

When we distribute rental skis should we use ski ties to reduce damage to the skis? One suggestion was to make some ties using velcro as this was done some years ago.

Consider spraying to disinfect boots.

Have a measuring chart available to aid in sizing during the pickup session.

**Note:** The club has placed an order for additional rental equipment for the coming year and this did require a down payment to be made. Events such as the winter carnival employed most of our existing rentals and this also will provide for possible increased registration next year.

**2. Jack Rabbit Johanssen Award:** Since Ken Campbell was unable to attend the club banquet John presented the award to Ken at this time. Ken has been responsible for several successful initiatives as Jackrabbit co-ordinator this season.

**3. Financial Report:** Sandra had already electronically distributed a Balance Sheet as at April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and an Income Statement for the period April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 using the new accounting system. The new accounts have been reviewed by our auditor. A Preliminary Budget Report was also distributed at the AGM. This shows Actual versus Budget for last season, variance for that period and preliminary budget for the next season.

**Recommendation:** Continue to develop the financial system to allow best practices and timely decision making.

John Motioned to approve the financial report. Ken seconded, all in favour, approved. The budget was not formally approved at this time because it is not yet complete.

**4. Jack Rabbits/Magic Rabbits/Bunny Rabbits:** Ken Campbell reported for this division. There were a total of 56 registered skiers ranging from Bunny Rabbit through to Magic Rabbit. There was more participation in the club Orion series, particularly the Cookie Race and very good attendance at the Snow Carnival. This event was registered with FIS and because of that the club received a package of equipment which will prove to be very useful for future events. Ken estimated that there will be a significant increase in registration next year due to this bring-a-friend carnival event (approx +15).

**Recommendations:**

The club will need to increase the number of trained instructors and upgrade the training of at least 4 current instructors and recruit and train at least 4 new instructors to CC level for the Jackrabbit and Bunnyrabbit groups.

Add a dryland training fall program.

Move the registration to an earlier date to allow for the fall program.

**5. Junior Outers:** Ed McCarron reported that this group experienced a very good season with reliable snow. The Orion races were well received and participation within the club seemed better. Several of the skiers (4 females) participated in high school races and raced at OFSSA in Sudbury. All members participated in the training camp at Highlands in January. He also provided a document that shows membership in this group has been in decline for the last five seasons.

**Recommendations:**

The group was smaller this year and likely will consist of only 4 current members next season unless additional members join. The club should try to increase membership in this group somehow or combine with Magic Rabbits. Darcy suggested that the city might be able to help with promotion. She asked what level of skier should be targeted.

Try to organize a more formal touring group.

Explore ways to increase interest in racing and support for those who do race.

More formal training plans.

Explore alternate, non-racing, skiing activities.

Hold other activities such as waxing clinic, training theory.

Colin also suggested that the club increase recruitment from the high school teams.

**6. Adult Programs:** John reported for Greg Harling who was unable to attend.

**Learn to Ski** – The adult instruction program was again very successful with registration number almost identical to those of last year. Adult Skate had 12 participants while Classic had 25. No classes had to be canceled due to extreme cold and snow conditions allowed for the full program. Skiers were very impressed with the grooming.

**Adult Ski Tour** – The pay as you go format worked very well as registration jumped from 3 in 2014 to 18 in 2015. This is very encouraging going forward.

**Recommendation:** Continue to promote these programs.

**7. Bechtel Park:** Stephan reported that although the season was quite short it was intense with a great February. The snow fencing on the upper field worked very well. There were some snow mobile problems this year but once it was repaired grooming was resumed. This year there were 5 official groomers and this allowed for timely trail maintenance.

**Recommendations:**

Wood chip the downhill towards the stone bridge..

Snow fence the upper field and the hill parallel to the baseball diamond.

Build a snow park down the hill from the baseball diamond.

Create a relationship with the Humane Society to implement an action plan re the problems with uncontrolled dogs.

Replace a scraper on the snowmobile renovator.

Modify use of the park as the soccer fields and lights disappear.

When the soccer fields are decommissioned the ball diamond will not be suitable for use but field #2 can still be used and it does have lights.

**8. Orion Race Series:** Colin provided a recap on the Orion race season.

**Cookie Race** - High turnout from Jackrabbit and Magic Rabbit due to scheduling within sessions but little participation from others.

**Kings Court Sprints** – Much lower turnout than expected due to high school exams and limited snow conditions. This race ran very smoothly. Format would be easier if planned for smaller numbers.

**Team Sprints** – Quite high participation from university and Junior Outers, less from Jackrabbit and Magic Rabbit. Very good format and much fun, little organization required.

**Recommendations:**

Schedule two races to line up with Jackrabbit sessions.

Book the lobby of the soccer building for race registration for each event.

Continue building a network of volunteers and get more certified.

Stay with easy to run formats, especially team based.

Ensure game-organizers are in sync with the scheduling expectations of Chief of Competition

Improve follow-up postings on website and social media.

**Note:**

Waterloo will not be on the SOD race series next year. The SOD race series is being combined with NOD and moved further north to allow NOD involvement and to get more reliable snow.

**9. Social Media:** Nera provided a short informal report on her work with the club's social media.

She has been successful in setting up cross-postings on Facebook and Twitter. As use of these social media platforms grows within the club, they plus the existing website will provide a very important means of communication and promotion for the club.

John summarized by again thanking all volunteers and commenting on the growth of the club this past season; referring to such successful initiatives as the Orion Race Series, our Youth Programs, rental program and increased use of social media.

At this point, in accordance with the club bylaws, the meeting proceeded with the election of the new board of directors

**Election of New Board:**

The following seven members were nominated for re-election.

John Clarke

Greg Harling

Bill Henry

Colin Rhodes

Sandra Korotash

Nera Sarovic

Edith Baer

John Clarke then called three times for further nominations. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and the above seven were elected by acclamation.