

RIVER VALLEY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting 2011
May 30th. 2011
Grand Bay Centrum

Present:

Members:

Keith Thomas	Chuck Beyea	Tracey Greer	Lori O'Keefe
Barb Thomas	Mike Breneol	Danny Hoyt	Jessie Palmer
Rob Calder	Gayle Brown	Katie Langmaid	Lori Park
Shelley Calder	Mike Earle	Melanie Lively	Pam Pinnington
Rob Fowler	Ben Fowler	Denise Logan	Ross Richard
Ralph Johnson	Debbie Fowler	Wes Logan	Lori Ring
Jim Palmer	Luke Fowler	Jamie London	Dave Vicente
Greg Johnson	Kim Glew	Coral Matheson	Julie Vicente
	Madison Glew	Chris McNulty	Rosanne Yeomans
	Tom Greer	Heather McNulty	

Guests:

Jennifer Keilty
Darlene Shiels
Dave Shiels

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:10 pm.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Barb Thomas read the Notice of Meeting as posted in the Telegraph Journal on May 4th. 2011.

VOTING PROCEDURE

Keith Thomas outlined the allocation of votes as detailed in the River Valley Basketball Association Constitution.

MINUTES OF 2010 MEETING

The Minutes of the 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted
MOTION TO ACCEPT - Mike Earle
SECONDED - Ralph Johnson
ALL IN FAVOUR - Motion Carried

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Report by Keith Thomas
(*Copy below*).

FINANCIAL REPORT

Shelley Calder provided a statement of revenue and expense noting the association had a net revenue of \$660.92 at year end April 30th. 2011. This came from total revenues of \$15,367.00 vs total expenses of \$14,706.08. It was noted that the Associations bank account had a balance of approximately \$5,600.00 and the sub-account to the main account, called the Special Projects Fund had approximately \$6,800.00. Keith Thomas pointed out that while the bank accounts were healthy it has taken a number of years to get to this point since our positive year end revenues were typically a few hundred dollars.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE 2010-2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTION TO ACCEPT - Jim Palmer

SECONDED - Lori O'Keefe
ALL IN FAVOUR - Motion Carried

REPORT ON PUPPY DIVISION

Report by Jim Palmer
(Copy available from RVBA Secretary)

REPORT ON JUNIOR MINI BOYS

Report by Greg Johnson
(Copy available from RVBA Secretary)

REPORT ON JUNIOR MINI GIRLS

Report by Keith Thomas
(Copy below)

REPORT ON MINI HOUSE LEAGUE

Report by Keith Thomas
(Copy below)

REPORT ON BANTAM BOYS

Rob Fowler reported on Bantam boy's house and rep activities for the year. He noted that the year started out slow with low numbers but played regular house league games against teams from Hampton and East Saint John. The team participated in the Kean Tournament and did well placing 2nd in the event. As a rep team the boys prepared for the Provincial Championship which the RVBA hosted. At this tournament the team were competitive in all their games. Rob thanked the parents of the players for the great job making the tournament the success it was.

REPORT ON BANTAM-MIDGET GIRLS HOUSE AND REP

Report by Rob Calder
(Copy available from RVBA Secretary)

REPORT ON MIDGET-JUVENILE BOYS, HOUSE AND REP

Report by Ralph Johnson
(Copy available from RVBA Secretary)

REFEREE REPORT

Report by Ralph Johnson
(Copy available from RVBA Secretary)

Ralph also noted that rated referee Everard Logan will not be back next season as he will be away at University.

Denise Logan noted that her sons Everard and Brandon had a greater respect for the rules of the game and the officials due to their own involvement in officiating. She thought all players would benefit from referee training and for the same reasons suggested a mentoring program may be beneficial.

Keith Thomas noted that, in his opinion, Basketball is one of the most difficult sports to referee. An official has to be aware of many, many potential rule infractions and be able to make call in a split second. He noted that this year it was difficult to have enough referees to cover all the house and rep games we hosted. One of the main problems being that many of our referees are also players and often had games at the same time they were needed as a ref. He invited guest Darlene Shiels to comment since she assigns referees with the LMBA. She noted the same concern for that association and suggested that Metro League look to hold Midget/Juvenile games on Sunday evenings thus freeing up such referees to do Saturday house games. Keith noted that a suggestion had also been made to train

adults to referee since they would more likely be available on Saturdays. From a development point of view, Keith also noted that as an association it may be incumbent on us to challenge the referee trainers and assigners in Saint John and indeed the province (NBOA) to create a better training model. Perhaps we have to look at how hockey does it since they appear to have a good model for developing youth officials.

REPORT ON MINI GIRLS REP

Report by Chuck Beyea
(Copy below)

REPORT ON MINI BOYS REP

Gayle Brown reported on the Mini Boys rep season. 12 players and 3 practice players participated on the team coached by Bruce MacLeod and David Vicente. The team had a great year, with excellent attendance at games and practices, and success at tournaments in Miramichi, Sussex, Sackville and the Provincials. The team claimed the title in the Sussex tournament and lost in the Bronze medal game at Provincials. 5 Players are moving on the Bantam next year.

Keith Thomas commented on the team's year end banquet to which he and Barb were invited. He pointed out the excellent job the parents did in putting on the event and in particular noted the awards and gifts the players received. This included individualized calendars provided by Dave Vicente for each player, a terrific awards show style power point presentation put together by Bruce MacLeod giving each player individual awards. As well the team created a "Mike Anderson Play of the Year" award in the form of an annual trophy, which was presented to 3 players by Mike Anderson himself. This is an annual award and Keith noted he has talked to the Town Recreation Director about the prospect of displaying the trophy in a public place. Keith indicated the year end banquet would be something all teams could emulate.

NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion to be addressed at this years meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Two Board members noted they would not be returning to the Board for next season. Shelley Calder and Greg Johnson were thanked for their valuable input during their time on the Board.

The following people were elected to the Board of Directors for 2011-2012.

President	Keith Thomas	Puppy Co-ordinator	Jim Palmer
Vice President	Rob Calder	Bantam Co-ordinator	Rob Fowler
Treasurer	Katie Langmaid	Mid/Juv Co-ordinator	Ralph Johnston
Secretary	Barb Thomas	Referee In Chief	Ralph Johnston
		Director	Chuck Beyea

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF OFFICERS

MOTION TO ACCEPT – Mike Breneol
SECONDED - Denise Logan
ALL IN FAVOUR - Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Shiels, Physical Education teacher at River Valley Middle School made a presentation about the prospect of amalgamating the RVBA Bantam program with the RVMS teams. Copy attached. After the presentation the members had the opportunity to make observations or ask questions. Denise Logan noted as a parent of 2 players who attended Samuel d'Champlain School that such an amalgamation would have not allowed her boys the opportunity they had to play competitive ball in the community, to be a part of 3 Provincial Championships teams. The thought of being coached by 2 coaches utilizing different systems was not a concern as she sees value in input from different instructions. She is just glad her boys have gone beyond the bantam level and didn't have to face the prospect of amalgamated programs.

Shelley Calder noted that there would be unfairness if players were playing for one team but some of them wouldn't be able to attend a Provincial Tournament.

David Vicente had a concern as a coach in that if a coach had a team full of players of which some would not be eligible for a Provincial Tournament then the coach may be inclined to only really train the players who he knows will attend. Why waste the time working plays with players who cannot attend the tournament. This scenario could easily arise. On the point that players playing on a school team, a rep team and a house team involves too much time in a gym, he suggested he would prefer his kids be in a gym otherwise they would simply be at home playing video games. He would prefer the activity of physical play.

Mike Earle asked if there was going to be a decision made during this meeting or would the issue be tabled. Keith Thomas noted that the proposal would go to the Board of Directors for full review and information gathering and that ultimately the Board would decide if the blending of programs was in the best interests of the Association.

Pam Pinnington thought some of the points had merit as asking kids to play on 3 teams seemed like a huge commitment. She also understood the concerns about non-RVMS kids participation in such a venture and thought maybe some kind of pilot project be done for a year.

Tom Greer spoke as a parent of a player who was not selected to play on the school team yet had a great experience participating on the RVBA rep team. He wondered what would happen to players like her. Potentially they would not be able to play at this level and such miss the development opportunities the rep team afforded his daughter.

Julie Vicente asked what would happen to kids in grade 6 who play rep ball at the Mini level not Bantam. Would they not be allowed to play for a school team if it was only made up of Bantam/Grade 7 & 8 players.

Jim Palmer made a few points including the observation that Mr. Shiels seemed to be saying that somehow by giving kids less basketball they were going to become better. That didn't appear to make sense. He also queried as to what would happen to the RVBA's midget/juvenile divisions. If the RVBA for all intents and purposes stopped at the mini level, how do we know the interest would be there after their bantam/middle school programs to participate at older age classes. Jim also used his own experiences of having one coach for 3 or 4 years was not a good thing. The concern of having 2 coaches at the middle school/bantam level was not a problem for him. In fact it would likely be a good thing. As to the experience of playing house, rep and school, Jim read a letter from Kaylee Kilpatrick, a former Barnhill Middle School student who played bantam and midget basketball with the RVBA.
(Copy available from RVBA Secretary)

Chuck Beyea re-questioned the point that grade 6 kids would not be able to play on the school/bantam team. He also wondered how it would work for a player who attended a different school could make it to RVMS for practices if they were held after school at 3:30pm. He also questioned how a team would be made up. In other words, if there were 10 kids that were on the team who attended the middle school, 5 kids who were from other schools that were registered with RVBA, 5 more kids who went to RVMS who were not registered with RVBA, would the team have 20 players on it. How would that work?

Shelley Calder suggested that it perhaps should be a choice for a player to play both rep and school. She also noted that having different teams also meant parents who may want to coach also have more opportunities to do so if there are more than one team.

Jamie London inquired as to whether all children would have the opportunity to play no matter what their skill level.

Barb Thomas inquired as to whether such a team would get to go to the Middle School provincials in light of the fact that this year they didn't get that opportunity.

Lori Ring expressed her thoughts regarding her daughters experience with Bantam rep. She had a great season with the team. She suggested that there would be benefits from playing on both a rep and a school team and that there was an equal chance for the teams to be competitive.

Denise Logan reiterated her point that the RVBA had provide her boys an excellent experience and that they played house league, RVBA rep and school ball with Samuel de Champlain and had no concerns.

There being no further questions and in the essence of time Mr. Shiels was thanked for his presentation which will go to the Board of Directors for review.

There being no other new business a request was made for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT - Chuck Beyea

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:30pm

Reports

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2010 – 2011

The future looks bright for the River Valley Basketball Association. In a time when children have so many opportunities to participate in other programs we have once again topped the 200 mark in terms of registrations with BNB. This includes players, referees and coaches of course but we are maintaining good numbers while at the same time seeing growth in the younger divisions. Spurring that on is our Puppy division. Over 40 players participated in our new format put together by Jim Palmer. This year all puppy players participated on Saturday morning at River Valley Middle School and were divided into 4 teams. The kids were rotated through 4 stations during their hour where some great coaches ran them through fun skills training. Having this amount of activity in one place was exciting and active for kids and parents alike. One of the things however that really stood out for me was the quality of basketball knowledge that parents had at this level. Jim had great help and we had a list of about 12 people with high level of basketball background capable of helping out at any given time. This is what I mean about our future. Lots of young kids with eager coaches with basketball knowledge. This definitely bodes well for the future aspirations of our association. In my mind I have a goal of 250 players in the RVBA within 5 years. That would mean having about 50 participants at each level and it will all start with registrations at puppy and junior mini level. Growing these divisions will provide that bubble which will continue to move through the age levels as time goes by. The parent/coaches in question too will be the future of the RVBA. I see their assistance as being invaluable to our future efforts.

The Junior Mini program grew this year as well with around 22 boys and 14 girls on the rosters. Ideally I would like to see all divisions from Jr. Mini up having 2 boys and 2 girls teams at the house league level and 1 rep team at each at the mini to juvenile level as a result.

Our mandate is to provide the opportunity for all children of the greater Grand Bay-Westfield area to be able to play organized basketball. This is where our house league becomes our most important product. It continues to be important to develop, grow and promote a good product for players, coaches and referees to develop in. In recent years our efforts to promote the cause city wide through the Metro League format with the other 4 associations has proved very beneficial to our cause. In particular at the Jr. Mini and Mini level it has allowed us to have all boy and all girl teams where in the pre-Metro League days they were in house co-ed teams. The Metro League has had a couple of stumbling blocks in recent years with KV and LMBA essentially going their own ways. Their policy of not allowing rep players to participate on house league teams weakened their house teams to the extent that they were unable to compete with other house teams. The RVBA was still able to participate with the LMBA at the Jr. Mini level and with Hampton and East Saint John at all other levels. It would be nice to see all the associations find a way to participate for the furthering of the sport in the greater community. At present the RVBA cannot support separating the rep programs from the house programs primarily due to numbers. The concern obviously being that if 15 kids sign up for mini house league and 12 of them play on the rep team, what would happen to the other 3 players if the rep team was pulled. They wouldn't have anywhere to play and this would go completely against the association's mandate. Interestingly, our bantam/midget level had 2 players play with us from Saint John this year because the LMBA didn't have a team for them to participate with.

Growth is still the key focus for this association. At present the RVBA registers approximately 12-13% of all the school aged children up to grade 8 in the area. While this is an excellent number for one organization I believe there is an untapped group of children (potential players) of around 400 in number. Just 13% of those kids would amount to 52 more players for our league. Potentially, growth could come from within the community at the current population levels. It is incumbent upon us to continue to develop our programs and promote the opportunity to this group of possible recruits.

Luckily, the sport is getting some high profile exposure in the city these days as the Saint John Millrats along with former RVBA stand-out Mike Anderson bringing pro sports to the city. With the potential of a Moncton team coming on board with the newly formed National Basketball League, the sport may see further growth as a spin off province wide. The greater basketball community does however still have to work at the development and growth of the sport. With the Saint John Seadogs success spurring interests in hockey and a likely year round indoor field coming to Exhibition grounds hosting winter football and soccer programs it will be imperative for all of us to work locally but think globally when it comes to the sports development.

Coaching development will be important in the coming year. With a number of house league coaches moving up to new levels and more coaches looking to participate in our programs it will be necessary to have people take the NCCP coaching certificate programs and also participate in a technical clinic which I hope to see us run in the early fall as an in house activity. I expect this coming season to have the strongest slate of coaches the association has ever had. The biggest problem I see is where we are going to place them all such that we get the best of their efforts utilized. It's a good problem to have.

On another front, something I have been looking to have more efforts put into in the past few years is our fundraising efforts. While we have had some success in this area it hasn't been consistent enough or substantial enough to meet the target I had hoped for which is \$5000.00 annually. I will challenge this years Board of Directors to take on this opportunity to organize greater efforts in this area.

That being said we have this year had great support from the business community. The bantam boy's rep team parents were successful in bringing in \$1100.00 in sponsorships to the association as part of their hosting of the Provincials. Also Scholten's 6-12 store in Grand Bay has offered \$500.00 per year towards our efforts beginning this year. A big Thank you to Paul Gordon for that sponsorship. Not to be forgotten is the annual donation from the UCT who have supported our association for many years now and whose donation annually is \$500.00

We are also crossing our fingers regarding a recent application to the Canada Games Foundation of Saint John where we requested a funding of \$10,000.00 per year for 3 years. It is hoped that we will be approved for at least some of this and we hope to know the outcome by mid June..

One of the main reasons for sponsorships is to build a fund that the association can use for Special Projects and or items that may be unusual or costly that we don't want to have to raise registrations costs to pay for.

Currently we are investigating the opportunity of developing 2 high quality outdoor courts which would be built on the River Valley Middle School grounds and would be available to the entire community to use whether they attend this school or register with the RVBA or not. While an expensive project, the RVBA already has support from the District 8 school board, the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield, local business and others to see this project through. It is planned to have a quality painted asphalt surface complete with lighting, benches and nets at the two heights currently used in area indoor ball. Monies from the Special Projects Fund would be used as the associations in-kind donations to help secure grants from various avenues including the Crane Mountain Community Enhancement Fund.

In closing, I would like to extend to the Board of Directors, the coaches and parents who run and manage our teams, the referees, the 3 area schools from which we would not be able to have a program if not for these facilities and every parent who drives them to the gyms so they can learn something new, get some exercise and enjoy the activities with their families.

I am truly excited about the future of this sport in our community. Growth of registrations, more quality coaching coming on board and new opportunities at funding all fit together to maintain a quality product from an excellent organization doing good in our community.

**Jr. Mini Girls House
2010-2011**

1 team of 14 players – coaches

Carrie Calder
Cindy Beck
Lori Grant
Sam Breneol

Started with 9 players and recruited to get 14

Thank all the parents who stepped up to help this year.

The team grew as the season went on. At the start of the season there were 9 players but ended the season with 14 girls. It was great to see the new players come out. A couple of these players required quite a bit of “encouragement” before they signed up but ultimately were glad they did. Yes we do have to actively recruit, even at the Jr. Mini level, and even more after the season starts.

A couple of challenges during the season which really weren’t too problematic. The LMBA teams at times didn’t have enough players to fill their bench so often some of our players went to play with their teams to even out the numbers.

The RVBA and LMBA also need to revisit the rules of play for Jr. Mini as sometimes call that were made in our gym weren’t being called in their gym etc. Everyone needs to be on the same page.

Our coaches schedules were a little problematic only in that the person coaching at practice was not typically the coach on the bench at game time. It did require some communication between the various people to identify coaching needs tying game things with practice things.

A better buzzer system or clock would be helpful since Morna Heights doesn’t have anything. Typically a manual clock is operated while the “time keeper” blows a whistle or a horn to stop play.

Westfield School had a portable scoreclock they were willing to sell. I would suggest the Board investigate this possibility.

**Report on Mini House League
2010-2011**

Girls – 11 players - Coaching David and Mary Gwen Alston
Jamie London

10 girls played rep, (lost 1 player early)

Boys – 2 teams- RV1 Coach Maurice Levesque
RV2 Coach Dave Vicente

18 players, 9 on each team
11 rep players

Thank you very much to Maurice, Gayle, David, Chris, David, Mary Gwen and Jamie

- Good numbers, good season
- Competed with Hampton, East Saint John. LMBA and KV out due to rep players ineligibility and the fact that as a result the scores of games are very lopsided.
- Rep teams travelling is somewhat problematic, girls team had a couple of players who missed play, boys had 8 players who missed play, while 8 was a good number, often all 8 were not available to play when rep was away
- Balls misplaced at Westfield School a couple of occasions. Apparently left out in gym so custodian locked them in equipment room.

RVBA Mini Girls Rep (2010-2011) - Report to AGM

We had a great year –the best in a long time. Parents understood what we were trying to accomplish, and we had no conflicts whatsoever. Parents were very supportive of our efforts – we would play 2 away games on a Sunday, then practice that night, and not one person complained to me.

We carried 12 players and one 'practice' player. We were a very young team - the breakdown was: Grade 6 – 3; Grade 5 – 5; Grade 4 – 4; Grade 3 – 1. Players were Taylor Breneol, Chloe Levesque, Alyssa Yeomans, Kathleen O'Keefe, Kailey Breen, Rachel Leblanc, Mackenzie London, Emily Alston, Laura Duffley, Jillian Beck, Darah Grant, Abby Brideau and Hannah Breneol. We were very pleased to add Katie Langmaid as assistant coach.

We had a total of 42 practices – attendance was excellent – absenteeism was below 10% for 11 of the 13 -- 2 had perfect attendance (Rachel, Jillian).

We played 34 games – all against teams that we would normally play. We did not shy away from our regular choice of opponents to accommodate the youth of our team. Because of this, our win/loss record was 11 wins, 23 losses – with some losses being by 60 points. This did not bother the players, coaches or parents, as all understood that we were more concerned with how we played than the score.

Over the year, playing time was very fairly distributed – the player with the most time averaged 4.1 shifts per game, and the player with the least averaged 2.9 shifts per game.

We attended 4 tournaments – ours, Miramichi, Provincials and Sackville – our best showing was Sackville, where we finished second. At all tournaments, we had a lot of compliments about how we played, and more importantly, how we behaved.

Re: Sackville, parents and coaches were concerned with the conflict that occurred on the boys' side of the tournament, where sportsmanship suffered. I apologized at the time to the tournament organizers on behalf of the RVBA. However, in subsequent correspondence with the SBBA President, I feel that they are still struggling in how to deal with this.

We spent a little over \$2000 this year - Canaport was very kind to us this year, providing cash and product that we were able to use to help fund our season.

We continue to have concerns about the recent rule modifications – particularly regarding the double team violation. The intent was to allow more kids to develop ball-handling skills – unfortunately, many of the teams that we saw tended to just have their best player go end to end. Some ran isolation plays and lots of screens to encourage this style of play.

The difficulty was further exacerbated by the lack of officiating consistency from zone to zone, from official to official, and even from game to game. We saw games where the dribbler was quadra-teamed, and games where, although help-side positioning was permitted, a player was not allowed to actually help. Hopefully, BNB will address this before next season.

Katie and I are looking forward to next season – with the potential of 10 players returning, we will have an excellent year, and give the players lots of skill development and lots of fun. The challenge will be how – and whether – to integrate new players into a very close group.

Chuck Beyea, RVBA Mini Girls
Katie Langmaid, RVBA Mini Girls