

Rye Little League Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: B. Monahan, J. Sexton, D. Crisp, C. Keebler, T. Mardin, M. Shepcaro, S. King, G. Carr, R. King, S. Turner, S. Turner, B. Sexton, D. Record, P. Kane, J. Lanam

Minutes from March 5 and March 24 were approved.

Opening Day for Major League – Discussion concerning the date for Majors to start their season and not overlap with the All-Star schedule took place. It was agreed to begin the Major League schedule a week earlier to avoid this conflict. Majors will start games the week of April 21 which is the week before RES / RJH school vacation. During the vacation week, coaches can have practices if wanted. The games in this early week will not be official games, they will be considered pre-season games. The American, National, and T-Ball leagues will begin on May 10<sup>th</sup> as previously planned. Their last day of games will be June 28<sup>th</sup>, and if there is a conflict with the field on the 28<sup>th</sup> for the National League, due to the All-Star schedule possibly using the field, that will be addressed at that time. The game could be played on another date or on another field.

Maintenance of the LL field – Jeff Carroll and Glenn Carr have done a tremendous amount of work to get the field ready for the season. There is concern for people helping out that have not been instructed on the proper method of maintenance. The plan is to hold a “clinic” on training volunteers of the proper techniques for maintenance of the field. Instructions are posted in the shed where the tools are kept. No one should be working on the field without training from either Jeff or Glenn. Clarification of responsibility is that Rye LL is in charge of anything inside the field fence; the Town of Rye is responsible for outside the fence. The LL is going to be responsible for mowing the field this year.

Field Day – Scheduled for Saturday 4/19/08 8:00 a.m. – All managers, coaches, teams, are expected to participate. Clean-up outside the field is needed, raking, picking up littler, the gardens, whatever is needed to get things ready for Opening Day. All families are encouraged to participate.

Snack Shack – The schedules are ready for posting on line and sending to the families. Discussion of buying a pretzel machine, it was agreed to try selling pretzels first to see if it would be worth purchasing our own machine. It was approved, if the sales were good over a couple of weeks, that the Snack Shack could proceed to purchase a machine.

National League – There was discussion concerning the times in the past that the National League coaches have been locked out of the scorer’s booth / field equipment shed. It was agreed that the managers should have a key so if there is a break in the game schedule on a given Saturday, when the National League games begin, there is access to the building without having to track down someone from the Major League.

Batting Cage – Pete Kendall and Steve Turner will clean up the batting cage for Opening Day.

Wendy’s Restaurant – Christin has spoken with the manager from the Wendy’s in Portsmouth. They would like to help us with a fund raiser for our league. They want to do a “Rye Little League Day” where we will get 20% of the proceeds from a given day. Christin will arrange this and let us know. The proceeds possibly will go toward the expense of improving our batting cage.

Opening Day Ceremony – If it rains on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the ceremonies will be rescheduled to May 17<sup>th</sup>. Bob is taking care of the scoreboard and PA system to make sure it is working, recruiting appropriate help as needed. The National Anthem will be sung by Amelia Griffiths, RES 4<sup>th</sup> grader. Bob has the parade details taken care of, the Majors will meet at the RJH for their respective pick-up trucks and the 12 yr olds will ride with the fire truck. The RJH Principal, Chris Pollet will be participating by throw a first pitch with the 2007 Flash Jenness winner. Dianne will get an agenda out to the families with the schedule.

Background Checks – All volunteers who are involved directly with the children will need to have their background check forms turned into Bob by May 10<sup>th</sup> in order to do their jobs this season. This will be for all managers, coaches, umpires, and board members. The form will be on the website.

Team equipment bags – Bob will deliver the equipment to the Vice-Presidents of each league to deliver to their coaches.

Volunteers in the Scorer's Booth – The umpire is in charge of the scorer's booth during the game. In the past there has not been enough supervision of who is in the scorer's booth. The kids like to hang out up there, but in the past, there has been too many kids up there to stay focused on the game. It was suggested that the managers get parents involved to help out by supervising during the games. A suggestion was to assign one parent from the visiting team to be in charge of the booth.

Bathrooms – The bathrooms belong to the Rye Rec building and the Little League is allowed to use them. The stipulation is that they are kept clean. This is one of the checklist items for the snack shack workers to make sure it is orderly and locked after the game. The snack shack coordinators are responsible to make sure that someone cleans the bathroom over the weekend so it is clean for Rye Rec programs.

National League Umpires – It was requested that a pool of volunteers for umpiring National League games be developed to help the coaches supply an umpire for their games. A request for volunteers to umpire will be posted on the website and forwarded to John Sexton, Chief Umpire.

Member-at-Large Opening – The last member-at-large opening was filled by Pat Kane. This is not a voting member position on the board, but a needed position. The member-at-large board members are expected to attend the board meetings and to be involved with the activities of the league.

Photos for the website – Nancy Gardella and John Surprenant are graciously taking care of the website one more year for us. In the past, they have also acted as Major League photographers for posting photos on the website so beautifully. However, since their son is no longer in the league this year, they will not be attending all of the games, and will not be able to continue with this. Because this is something people like to see on the website, it was agreed that each team should be able to come up with their own photos to send to Nancy and John for posting. If the teams want to come up with a "team photographer" or a rotational photographer, it doesn't matter. What does matter is that the photos are sent to Nancy and John with the team name and the date of the game so they can post it properly.

12-yr old players – Peter Taylor sent an email to Bristol, PA to clarify the ruling that all 12-yr olds must play in the Major League, regardless of skill level. Bristol replied that this is the case and the details of this new rule from the Little League International office is posted on their website.

Next meeting – planned for Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a manager's meeting.