



**Fraser Valley Ringette Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 4, 2018 – 6:30 PM
George Preston Arena**

The purpose of the Fraser Valley Ringette Association is to work together to promote, teach and perpetuate the game of Ringette. To build a community of players and supporters who understand the value of sportsmanship, respect and fair play. To provide the opportunity to develop the skills needed to ensure the continued growth of the program.

Executive Members Present:

**President – Sharon Smit
Vice President – Colleen Auld
Treasurer – Jennelle Woykin
Secretary – Joan McGivern
Ice Scheduler – Jennifer Gustavson
Director of Officials – Kevin Braithwaite
Director of Coaching – Dan Kempf
Director of Evaluations – Ben Bowcott
Director of Ways and Means – Danelle Sestito
Director of Athlete Development – Vacant
Director of Promotions – Vacant
Director of Tournaments – Nicole Borges
Equipment Manager – Karen Sitter
Past President – Tanya Braithwaite**

Executive Members Absent:

Registrar – Melissa Valentine

1. Call to Order 7:00pm
 - Review of positions up for election
 - Using current Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order

Motion: Tanya motions that Pete Smit and Wayne Moore will count the votes if needed. Colleen seconded. 26 in favor 1 abstained. **Motion passed.**

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: Natalie Wood Atkinson motions to accept the agenda for this General Meeting. Pete Smit seconded. 27 in favour. **Motion passed.**

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the 2016 AGM

MOTION: Natalie Wood Atkinson motions to adopt the minutes from last year's General Meeting on April 20, 2016. Jaylene Smit seconded. 26 in favour. 1 abstention. **Motion passed.**

- Business arising from the minutes: none
- Correspondence: none

4. Director's Reports

President – Sharon Smit

Hi, my name is Sharon Smit. This was my first year as president. Last season my first year on the board in over 20 years. I Vice President last season. At our last AGM, I stepped in to fulfill the second year of the two-year term previously held by Tanya Braithwaite. She had agreed to stay on as President for only one additional year to aide in transition of the board back at the AGM in 2016.

2017-2018 was a very interesting year. Unfortunately, there were several teams that had very tough seasons this past year, most of which I feel stems from our registration numbers at the beginning of the season. Other than U7, Open, and Masters, all other divisions had challenging numbers, with not really enough for two full teams, but too many for one team (for example a division of 20, 22 and 24 players, leaving teams of only 10, 11 and 12 per team). In some previous seasons we had been able to move a few players up a division to help alleviate this kind of situation, but this season with numbers like this in so many divisions, it was not feasible for us to do this. So, it left us having to make two small teams in almost every division. Not only does this make things challenging for teams if every player is not committed to being at most ice times, but the bigger challenges were having goaltenders and coaches for every team. Thank you so much to the parents that stepped out of their comfort zone this season to take on team roles that they had never done before, such as coaching and manager, and for doing what it took to be properly certified for their teams.

In our Open division, we went from having two full teams plus a wait list of 7 players to almost not having enough players for our Open B team and having to search for more players. This was the result of close to 15 of our previous FV Open players transferring to the newly formed Chilliwack team. Our team went from one of the top teams in Open B division the last number of seasons, to one of the weakest Open teams in the league, having to forfeit several games because of being short on players. From what I understand, our U16B team also had to forfeit a number of games this season as well.

With teams being short on goalies, coaches, and numbers, it created an extra challenging year. We had a few teams not win very many games, and a couple that did not win any games at all, leaving many people feeling frustrated with their season. Challenging seasons like this test us, and really make us appreciate the seasons that go smoothly!

My biggest disappointment this season was the number of challenges that we as a board had to deal with that could have been diffused much earlier on in the season if the parties involved had communicated openly with one another face to face. **Miscommunication was the number one challenge we faced as an association this season.** Too many times people were resorting to text messages or emails instead of talking to people face to face, or at least by phone. On more than one occasion the complaints came to us as a board, without the people involved even having a discussion with one another. There were also a few times, where parents did not communicate with coaches at the beginning when the concerns were first happening but left it until things built up and became much more challenging to work through. We also had a few parents go straight to LMRL and Ringette BC, before coming to the association first. This must stop! Can you imagine what it would be like if the Leagues and Provincial bodies had to deal with every concern or conflict at the association level? If we want a strong and successful association, it is up to each of us as adults to be able to speak directly and respectfully to the person we have the concern with, not complain to someone else, or go up the ladder right away. We have lost enough coaches, officials, and board members through lack of respect and poor communication.

On the brighter side, we also had some great successes this season!

BC Winter Games - We had twelve (12) FV players (age U15) compete in Kamloops at the BC Winter Games in February. Congratulations to 11 players on the Zone 3 team: Felicity Allen, Destyne Sloot, Kennedy Flaman, Kiandra Gustavson, Courtney Carmichael, Ruby Graber, Natalie Hagyard, Kiersten Weitschies, Kendra Atkinson, Marisa Smit, and Olivia Smit, and to our two coaches Teriann Carmichael and Sharon Smit for placing 4th at the games. Congratulations to Jessica Shmyr from FV who was on the Zone 1 team.

A Provincials – Congratulations to our FV U19A team on earning Bronze at the A Provincials in Kelowna at the beginning of March.

Western Canadian Ringette Championships - We had 3 FV players compete at Westerns in Saskatchewan 2 weeks ago. Courtney Carmichael and Ruby Graber, with assistant coach Teriann Carmichael, competed on Team BC in the U14AA division, and Emma Paradis was selected to join Richmond's team in the U19A division and they won the Gold medal going undefeated at Westerns.

Canadian Ringette Championships – FV has 4 players competing at the Canadian Ringette Championships in Winnipeg. Clare Fricke and Kiandra Gustavson are on the U16AA Team BC, and Quiana Borges and Fiona Briner are the U19AA Team BC. We wish them all the best on their quest for success and hardware at Nationals next week!

Officials - On the officiating side we had some great success too that Kevin will be sharing with you in his report.

Thank you to all volunteers that make our association work, from all of these supportive board members, to the coaches, managers, and Spirit of Winter Volunteers. A special thanks to Colleen Auld, our VP and Tanya Braithwaite our Past President, that gave me the extra support when needed this season. Another special thanks to Anne Allen who stepped up this season to take on our website and was so on the ball in solving our IT challenges with our web hosting provider. Thank you to Danelle Sestito for helping me keep our Fraser Valley Facebook Page up to date and to Taylor Braithwaite for managing our FV Instagram Account.

I will not be putting my name forward for re-election. I will stay on as Past President to support the next President and the board. Being president was not a good fit for me with my ringette business being the busiest when the president position was the busiest, and with our large family of 6 that are all very involved in ringette on many different levels.

Remember that our association is volunteer run. These positions are not our full-time employment, so we need to be patient with people when expecting responses. It is time for us to be respectful with one another and have conversations with people instead of relying on emails and texts to get our messages across. With more parents stepping up and out of our comfort zones we will continue to have a successful association. Ringette is an amazing sport that has been a huge part of my life for over 40 years, and I believe that with respect, open communication, teamwork, and the love of the game, FV can continue to be the largest association in BC and continue to grow this sport that we love.

Vice President – Colleen Auld

Hi, my name is Colleen Auld and I took on the position of Vice President this past season. It was my first year of a two year term. My first year on the board has definitely been a learning experience.

I started the year off by assisting our Director of Evaluations with our evaluation process. I had not been involved with the evaluation process prior to this season. The past directors have put together a solid process that we followed.

I attended the Ringette BC AGM with President, Sharon Smit. I assisted the President through the year when situations arose and did my best to help fellow Directors when needed.

I was able to organize our Team Picture night and thanks to past boards for implementing a great process it was able to run extremely smoothly. I am excited for next season as I have secured a new location at Sportsplex that will allow us more room and we will not have to tackle those darn stairs!

This year was a bit challenging as we unfortunately had vacant board positions and obstacles arise throughout the year. It was a huge loss to our association not having a Director of Athlete Development as well as a Director of Promotions. These roles are key in our association's success and growth.

It was very eye opening to see just how much all our board director's time and effort is put into this great association. I don't think the mass members realize all that they do just so our children can enjoy playing the sport they love.

A few things I have learned from soaking in as much as I could this season

- Communication! All aspects from between players, to coaches and players, coaches and parents, between board members and members.

- Appreciate our volunteers. If you are unhappy with how things worked out there are many roles you can play within the association to make a difference and learn from.

I enjoyed working with everyone on the board and look forward to next season.

Treasurer – Jennelle Woykin

Hi, my name is Jennelle Woykin and this was my 3rd year in the position of treasurer this past season.

It has been another successful year leaving our financial position in good standing.

We received \$45,000 in gaming funds again this year, which is \$9,175 more than prior years. This has enabled us to go forward with purchasing black jerseys for our U9, U10 and U12 divisions as they are in great need of replacement and we weren't getting any response back from Tim Horton's. Gaming must be spent on 3 categories only: Ice, Equipment and Athlete Development. If you turn to the income statement, the revenue for this year is \$188,932.54 and our expenses were \$180,831.55. We have a positive net income for the 2018 fiscal year of \$8,100.99. Some of this net income is due to us not having all board positions filled so the spending they normally would have done wasn't there. We did spend a little extra on expenses required at the end of the season as voted on by the board to pay.

If you turn to the balance sheet provided, you will see that our Total Current Assets (cash on hand) is \$54,276.01 between both accounts: \$54,178.46 in general; \$97.55 in gaming. This puts us in a great position for next season and gives us a cushion for the future in case gaming doesn't come through.

The budget for the 2018/2019 season will be discussed later in the meeting under new business. But the overall budget is solely based on us receiving the gaming grant funds in order to make our budget work. The treasurer apply for the grant shortly after this AGM, but we don't get an answer on whether it is approved or not until August and it is never the amount we ask for. I would like to reiterate that this is a budget only, which is just a guideline for spending. This budget will change once we receive gaming and as plans change at the start of the ringette season.

Secretary – Joan McGivern

My name is Joan McGivern. I have been a part of the board for over 7 years. I am fortunate to have been able to work with this board, volunteers who painstakingly take time out of their already busy schedules, with the sole purpose of ensuring our children can continue to play the game with fairness and positive influences in coaching, volunteering and parenting. The

position of secretary entails note taking, sending reminders, and completing the minutes and agenda for each meeting. I have one more year in my Term.

Registrar – Melissa Valentine

I am Melissa Valentine, and this was my 5th year as Registrar. I returned to the board in late September or early October, I can't recall now, when the position was vacated. This left our association without anyone to complete Rosters, confirm fees paid and finalize the association numbers and I was asked by our Executive to return to help as there wasn't time to find and teach someone new to the position. Teams would not have been able to play this year if a roster wasn't sent to Ringette BC. As this affects more than 200 athletes, including my daughter, I was happy to step in and help out.

That being said, I feel as though I have fulfilled my time as Registrar and hope that someone is willing to step in and take on this role. We are asking that a one year term be filled, but I would strongly suggest that someone commit to a 3 year term as it takes one full year to learn the position. From my experience my third and subsequent years on the board have been the easiest. I am willing to help anyone learn this position and will work directly with them until the season is underway.

Registration will open on May 15, 2018 for next season. The fees will be voted on this evening and posted on our website prior to registration opening.

My hope is to see our association grow as the last 2 years have seen a decline in registration. This should be a priority for the next Executive as it impacts our ice, grants and team formations.

Thank you to Sharon and Colleen, and everyone all the board, for your tireless efforts this year.

Ice Scheduler – Jennifer Gustavson

Hi My name is Jennifer Gustavson. Ive been Ice Scheduler for the past 3 seasons, with last season being my final one. Some responsibilities as Ice Scheduler include organizing ice within the association, communicating with the LMRL Ice scheduler regarding league games and informing the Director of Officials about league games. I am available to help the new Ice Scheduler.

Director of Officials – Kevin Braithwaite

For those that do not know me, my name is Kevin Braithwaite and I am the Director of Officials. This has been my third year as RIC and will be taking on my fourth and final year as Fraser Valley Director of Officials. This will be a year of change for some of our Officials as some who have been with us for the last few years will be moving on and will unfortunately not be with us next year.

We have however seen another year of great representation for our association as some have officiated at Provincials and BCWG's and some as shot clock operators and at Nationals and Worlds. Congratulations to all those who were selected to participate in these events.

We will be looking to fill as many as 3 refereeing positions next season. If anyone knows of someone interested in taking on this role, we would like it to be a 2 year commitment at minimum. We would prefer to have some adults come on board but will definitely look at the younger age group if interested and must be at least 14 years of age. Please see me after the meeting and I can give you further details. Thank you

Director of Coaching – Dan Kempf

I would like to thank all the head coaches, assistant coaches, coaches in training and parents that helped on the ice this year.

Coaching can be such a rewarding way to spend time with your daughters with the bonus of getting a chance to be a role model for a dozen or so terrific players every year.

So why don't we have more than enough coaching applications to fill every age group at the start of each season? I understand completely that life is busy and that there is a certain expectation that someone else will do it, but I have been around for 7 seasons now and I always see the same faces coaching.

This is not to say that the people who have consistently stepped up are unappreciated or incapable. What I am saying in most cases they are the only applicant for the age group. This is a dangerous position to be in. What happens if a coach's daughter quits the sport before your daughter does? What then? I'd like to encourage parents to ask how they can get involved, take a course get on the ice. Our sport needs you, our daughters need you.

This coming season the board has approved compensating the head coach of each team the amount of one player registration at the end of the season if that coach remains in good standing as a motivation to get our parents more involved.

We need to try something to get more people to move from the stands to the ice.

Saying all that I have, for the most part enjoyed being your director of coaching. This has allowed me to meet more of the parents and players than I ever would have just sitting in the stands, and for that I am grateful.

Director of Evaluations – Ben Bowcott

Ben Bowcott, director of evaluations. This year we kept the evaluation format the same as the previous year for U12 and up but changed it slightly for U10. Rather than have evaluators ranking the kids we had the coaching staff evaluating. The goal is to create equal teams and it worked out really well. At that age the kids may evaluate differently than their actual skill level and it helped to have the coaches watching having the context of knowing the kids.

The older divisions were split into teams by assigning the top 40% to the A team and then having the head coach of that team draft from the remaining players. It enabled the coach to fill out the roster with complimentary players in an effort to select the best overall team.

Rather than holding evaluations for the open division we allowed the players to self-declare and choose to play in the A or B team.

Moving forward we expect the same processes to be followed.

Director of Ways and Means – Danelle Sestito

Held position this past season, 2 year position, I am stepping down a year early

The main function is to raise funds for the Association. This can be done in any way you choose. In the past, an association wide pub night was held, which then changed into raffle ticket sales. This past season I organized the raffle ticket sales again as our only fundraiser. I have also been approached by a company that can offer an online version of this, which the new director may want to look into. The job description for this position also lists a few other duties which have not been instituted for some time which include:

- Coordinate fundraising events and give information to members
- Coordinate sponsorship program
- Help director of promotions with organizing year end wind up in April
- Attend all board meetings

Director of Athlete Development – Vacant

Director of Promotions – Vacant

Director of Tournaments – Nicole Borges

I along with my co-chair Jeaneen Briner, Yvonne Johnson and a brilliant Tournament committee is happy to report that we had an amazing tournament this past season, we grew our tournament team applications (including Alberta teams) and added some fun and exciting activities. As a follow up, we sent out a small questionnaire to the teams and received great feedback that we intend to grow/adjust even more for next year.... We added 2 more scholarships this year & paired up with Pete Smit to get referees evaluated during our tournament. Opening Ceremonies, banner parade and spirit of winter carnival are some of the few things that we added...Jeaneen & I have already started working on next year's tournament and hope to grow it even more. We've solidified ice and have teams already reaching out asking for our dates. What we are looking for in this up and coming season/tournament is some more of our members to come and join a solid tournament committee.... as we have a few of our committee members 'aging' out. We are a collaborative group that looks forward to having new members to continue on with our tournament as it continues to grow and be the tournament that teams want to come to! If you have any questions or would like to come to a meeting just to see what we're all about, please reach out to myself, Jeaneen or Yvonne. Thank you and we're excited to continue on!!

Equipment Manager – Karen Sitter

My name is Karen Sitter and this has been my second year as the Equipment Manager. This past year we have continued to upgrade and increase our Association equipment inventory. Since the 2017 AGM, we have purchased and/or acquired the following equipment:

1 goalie stick

4 goalie chest protectors

2 sets of goalie pads

2 Jr. Keely trappers

75 new rings

90 (6 sets of 15) Black jerseys for U9 through to U12 to match U14 and above

New black jerseys for U9-U12 were bought to replace old, torn, and worn out jerseys because Tim Horton's hasn't replaced them. I am hopeful that Tim Horton's will come through with white jerseys for U12 and below for the upcoming season so U9-U12 will have both new white and black jerseys and U7 will have new white jerseys.

We are always looking for input from our membership; so if you have any suggestions regarding equipment needs, please let us know.

Past President – Tanya Braithwaite

Hey there my name is Tanya Braithwaite, I have been part of Fraser Valley Ringette Association for 14 years and in that time held just a few positions. A mom, a team manager for 10 years, and in the last 6 years I was on the board first as ice scheduler for 3, President for 2 and this year past president. This year my position on the board was to lend assistance in a mentorship role where needed. One thing that has really stood out this year is the lack of volunteers not just at a board level but at all levels, from on ice helpers, coaches, and managers. As a non-profit organization we run on volunteers, we need volunteers to be successful and the more volunteers we have the less work it is for everyone involved. To run a successful association we also need the right volunteers, we need volunteers that are not only here for their own child but also every other child that plays within our association. We need volunteers that want a successful association. Another situation that has really stood out over the past couple years but more this year and I honestly feel this is a factor to the lack of volunteers is the lack of respect that is being shown to our volunteers. Some members need to realize without coaches, managers, bench staff and a board of directors your child would not have Fraser Valley Ringette. Volunteers can only take being talked down to, yelled at, sworn at or attacked so many times. I ask everyone next time you do not feel your child's coach has not performed as perfect as you can or the Board has not seen only your point of view, please stop and think before you attack. Yes we are human but so is the volunteer, treat them the way you would like to be treated, try to see the whole situation. I know Fraser Valley Ringette Association is a fantastic organization and I know Fraser Valley has got a lot of passionate and knowledgeable families and I hope the association continues to grow but to do so we need you! After holding so many positions within Fraser Valley I am ready to move on, I can't say good bye as I have made some great friends so I will say see you around.

6. Financial Statements for 2017/2018 and proposed budget – Jennell Woykin

See handouts Balance Sheet, Budget

Question: If there is a decline in membership then why is there an increase in membership for the grant application

Answer: We used not just players but we used coaches and referees and volunteers to increase membership for gaming – we are allowed to do that – and now will work with LMRL to help with the application to see if we can get more gaming

Question: Is the reason player and goalie development is low because there was no director of development – but anticipating that position will be filled because it is reflected in the budget again next year.

Answer: yes

MOTION: Ben Bowcott motions to accept the 2017/2018 Budget. Wayne Moore seconded. All in favor (26). **Motion passed.**

7. Election of Directors

Two non-executive members for tallying votes – Pete Smit and Wayne Moore

Seven (7) positions for re-election (two-year terms elected on even numbered years)

President: Ben Bowcott accepts the nomination and Tracy Townsend accepts the nomination – vote tally majority of votes for Ben Bowcott

Question by Wayne Moore: In agreement that the enrollment is dropping, the association needs to look at the formation of A and B teams and the equity of coaches – how can we solve this?

Tracy – growth needs to happen in all areas of the sport – evaluations are set up in a way that provides opportunity for team/leadership skills not just on ice skills. Need a strong coaching structure in place which we do not have – but growing the sport is what is important. We need to approach schools, recreation facilities for all areas and all groups.

Ben – it is a good thing that kids are willing to put on skates and learn to be a part of a team even when the skill level is not there – this is a good thing for our association – it is frustrating for the other players but also provides an opportunity for them to become leaders. Coaching is an issue also – we need to work with the volunteers that we have and work with them.

Wayne Moore: This really comes down to parents stepping up to help out. Coaching courses and online help is there – parents just need to do it.

Ben – tiering is important so they are playing against even caliber teams

Sharon – perception of being on a B team is a bad thing – but it is not – the problem is the A team players have parents that have more experience. It is harder for the B teams because they feel like they are losing out – no coaches and no goalies – makes it difficult for everyone.

Question: Why are we making an A and B teams – why not 2 B teams

Sharon – LMRL policy and Ringette BC policy

Teresa Walker – need a Director of Promotions to help with this issue

Sharon: Challenging year with a lot of conflicts – how would you handle the situation if people are reluctant to talk

Ben – I am a direct person and it is important to have the face to face and it is uncomfortable but it has to be respectful and

Tracy – huge disconnect with the board and the members – so I would work at more transparency and work to bringing people together again.

Kevin: It is important if you make a commitment then you must be there 100% - that is really important

Nicole: concern that Ben has a position already and who would fill that position

Ben: yes it is a concern that roles are vacant on the board

President: vote tally taken – the majority of votes counted are in Ben Bowcott’s favour. **Ben accepts the position.**

Treasurer: Jailene Smit accepts the nomination. By acclamation **Jailene accepts the position.**

Director of Promotions: Natalie Wood Atkinson declined the nomination. Leanne declines the nomination. Tracy Townsend declines the nomination. Saralyn Swartz accepts nomination. By acclamation **Saralyn accepts the position.**

Director of Tournaments: Nicole Burges and Jeaneen Briner accept the nomination. By acclamation **Nicole and Jeaneen accept the position together.**

Director of Athlete Development: Eric Lapp accepts the nomination. By acclamation **Eric accepts the position.**

Ice Scheduler: Tania Taylor accepts the nomination. By acclamation **Tania accepts the position.**

Two (2) positions up for election (one year remaining in their two-year terms)

Registrar: Jennelle Woykin accepts the nomination. By acclamation **Jennelle accepts the position.**

Director of Ways and Means: Tina van de Weteringe Buys accepts the nomination. By acclamation **Tina accepts the position.**

Director of Evaluations: Tracy Townsend accepts the nomination. By acclamation **Tracy accepts the position.**

8. Other Business

- Any business arising out of the financial statements, or Directors Reports

9. New Business

- Proposed Adjustment to Registration Fee Structure

See handout Proposed FVRA Registration Fee Structure Adjustment

This fee structure is more fair according to ice time and is in line with other associations

Covers fee increase from Ringette BC and LMRL fee increase

Increases more evenly for later registration

Motion: Pete motions to accept the proposed fee structure for the 2018-2019 season.
Seconded by Natalie Woods Atkinson. 27 in favor. **Motion passed.**

Wayne Moore – comments that the schedule be more balanced at the beginning of the season so that the new skaters do not have to go up against the stronger skaters

Also participation of boys in the league – LMRL has come up with some solutions for next season and will be sending it out to all associations – Ringette BC will also be looking at men in ringette

10. Adjournment

- New Board members, please give our Secretary their contact information before leaving
- Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 – Walnut Grove Sportsplex – Annex (room beside green rink)

MOTION: Saralyn motions to adjourn meeting 9:03. Tina seconded. All in favor (26). **Motion passed.**

10. Adjournment 9:03pm