



Edinburgh Diamond Devils Baseball Club

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26th February 2006

1pm – Westwoods Health Club, Edinburgh

1. Welcome and Roll Call - All
2. Report on 2005 season - NC
3. Update from 2006 British Baseball Federation AGM (held Saturday 18th Feb.) and plans for 2006 – NC, SMc, TZ
4. Proposed budget and finances for 2006 - NC
5. Juniors plans for 2006 – RZ
6. Uniforms and Kit – GN & RN
7. Club 20th Anniversary plans – All
8. Any other business – All
9. Closure – NC

Attendees:

Jason Derr, Graeme Nelson, Scott Spurlock, Rit Zbikowski, Thomas Ziolkowski, Tom Haywood, Spencer Mackay, Callum Brown, Shaun Haigh, Sam Chan, Nic Watson, Sam Calder, Lennox Scoburgh, Blair McLelland, Simon McLelland, Paul Marshall, Nick Clark

Apologies:

Ross Naylor

1. Welcome and Roll Call

NC thanked everyone for coming and brought the meeting to order. NC distributed new team training t-shirts (available to all fully registered players) which are now mandatory for all indoor training sessions. £1 fines will be levied to those who do not wear their shirt. GN passed on RN's apologies.

2. Report on 2005 Season

NC expressed his thoughts on 2005 and the disappointing end to the year resulting from the NL playoffs situation. JD had nothing further to add and GN expressed a view that was agreed with by all that everything that had been said on the matter had been said and that the organisation should move on and focus on the coming season.

3. BBF AGM

NC, TZ, SMC reported on the abortive BBF AGM that ended early due to insufficient clubs/voters being in attendance. The first hour of the BBF AGM was devoted to BSUK plans to form a limited company for the administration of the Whole Sport Plan, the major policy document that outlines the future development of the sport in the UK. NC explained that the document that outlines the agreement between the BBF/BSF and BSUK has several flaws that were questioned by those that attended the AGM, in particular the fact that should the BBF and BSF elect to withdraw from the company, the funding provided to both sports would remain with BSUK and not revert to the Federations. NC stated he would keep the club's members advised of developments but a resolution was made to not support this venture in its current form.

NC explained that discussions had centred on the season schedules and the proposed realignment of the Northern Conference was as follows:

National League North

- *Edinburgh Diamond Devils A*
- Liverpool Trojans
- Manchester Eagles
- Menwith Hill Patriots

Premier Division North

- Glasgow Stars
- Halton Jaguars
- Manchester A's
- Sheffield Bladerunners

Division One North

- Barnsley Strikers
- Bolton Blaze
- *Edinburgh Diamond Devils B*
- Humber Baseball
- Strathclyde Falcons

4. Proposed budget and finances for 2006

NC explained that due to the fact that no definite budget had been provided by the BBF, and with it no clear announcement of season costs, fees, gameballs etc. a 2006 club budget was not available as yet. However, NC did explain that a rough draft had predicted a marginal loss on the season comparing player membership revenues with all season costs, eating slightly in to the club's cash reserves. NC went on to explain that if the remaining personnel with outstanding dues and impending new recruits did pay their fees then a profit would be attained. A resolution was taken to distribute a budget for consideration as soon as it became possible to prepare one.

TH asked of the club's plans for development of Meadowmill. NC explained that although our grant application was still pending, a recent meeting with the manager of Meadowmill had proven interesting. A supply of 14 foot long poles had been found at Meadowmill, opening up the prospect of a bigger backstop at Bobby Thomson Field. JD explained that this could be a permanent, semi-permanent or removable item and should be investigated further. NC detailed that the poles were formerly used by the cricket team that used to play at the centre and offered the prospect of a quicker and cheaper resolution to the field development plans.

5. Juniors Plans for 2006

RZ explained the EJBA's plans for 2006 including a trip to play in Ireland. RZ explained that initial indoor training was planned for the Jack Kane Centre before the organisation moves to a new home at Edinburgh University's Peffermill Playing Fields. RZ encouraged more players to come along and help with several already committed to attend and assist.

6. Uniforms and Kit

GN explained his and RN's efforts to source new/ replacement uniforms. GN explained that samples were en route and that Covee had looked like a possible option with players able to buy club uniforms directly from the Covee website on an individual basis. NC expressed a personal opinion that the club try to avoid replacing the grey and black uniforms but all agreed that it may be easier to go with one uniform. A wider discussion followed on the need to ensure that both A and B teams wear the same gear as players may be needed for either team as well as European play. Player opinions will be sought prior to any decisions being made but agreement was reached that new grey pants will need to be purchased. NC proposed to e-mail out a form so a uniform inventory can be conducted to see where we stand.

7. Club 20th Anniversary Plans

NC explained that 2006 marks the club's 20th anniversary and that some form of celebration should be planned. NC circulated design ideas from RB

including logos, t-shirts, b.p. tops etc. with the overall opinion greatly in favour. A resolution was made to avoid uniform patches but t-shirts should be made. Also, discussions were had on some form of event to tie in with the Scottish Cup, perhaps with the event's final to be played at Meadowbank. Suggestions included bringing in an Irish team to allow for the creation of a 4 team event with suggestions of semi-finals on a Saturday at Meadowmill with the 3/4th playoff and final on a Sunday at Meadowbank so all teams could enjoy the big venue atmosphere. The weekend would be capped with a party for all participants at a suitable venue. Further discussions will follow.

8. Any Other Business

Discussions turned to the A and B teams with NW suggesting it would be useful for players to get an idea as to which of the two teams they would be playing for and at what positions. NC explained that a draft roster split for early consideration had been created and that it would be posted on the website. NC explained that the idea was to ensure players get sufficient playing time, development and value for their membership. All agreed that the main aim was the success of the A team and further discussion with the membership on the teams will follow as the season approaches.

9. Closure

NC thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 2pm.