

Sun and Fun Senior Softball League Meeting Minutes

Sunlake 10:00am

March 30, 2010

Call to Order Dave Sparrow called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Roll Call Present: All Officers. Two Division Reps. All Communities. See Appendix 1

Approval of Minutes The Secretary asked if there were any corrections, additions or changes to the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on October 27, 2009 as published on the website. There were none. The secretary indicated that he would email the minutes to the Park Reps as well as posting them on the website.

Treasurer's Report

Paul reported there has been no income since the March 2, 2010. The only expense was \$20 for the March 2nd meeting host. The current balance is: \$953.01. (Reminder: the Treasurer's Report is available on the website).

The report was accepted without objection.

President's Comments

1. Divisional Awards

In the amount of \$50 were presented to the Park Reps from DW (Division 1), Legacy (Division 2), PL and DW (Division 3 Co-Champs), Hawthorne (D4) and DW (Division 5). The Divisional awards are made in order to enable Divisional winners to acquire an appropriate trophy or plaque for their club or sponsor.

2. Del Webb Tournament

Dave thanked Del Webb for organizing and running the post-season tournament for S&F teams. He also expressed appreciation for the work done by the divisional hosts. Dan Bird (DW-Rep) reiterated appreciation for the contributions that everyone made to make the tournament a success.

3. Make-Up Games

Dave expressed appreciation to everyone for the outstanding effort that was made to play games that were postponed by the incredibly bad weather that we experienced this season.

4. Issues to be Resolved in 2010

Dave reminded the Executive Board of:

- o SSUSA Rule Changes
- o Confirmation of the 2011 All Star Game at Hawthorne
- o Consideration of a Schedule without make-up dates
- o Forfeits and Fines

5. Park Reps Responsibility

Dave spoke of the unity of the league and the need for Park Reps to fulfill their responsibility by dealing with every issue as leaders of communities and not of individual teams. He encouraged all reps to vote on every issue, but affirmed their right to abstain.

OLD BUSINESS

20th Anniversary Season

The league will begin its 20th season this fall. A committee lead by Bob McShinsky of Continental will explore the possibility of a golf tournament, picnic, patches and other means of commemorating the occasion. The treasurer reminded the EB that the league treasury does not have sufficient funds to pay for events and/or purchases.

Website Help

Dave asked if any of the Reps had been able to find anyone who would be willing to learn the work necessary to produce the website. No names were provided. The league remains vulnerable without backup for the current secretary.

Summer League Participation

The following communities expressed an interest in summer league play: Del Webb (2 teams), Plantation, Spruce Creek, Stonecrest and Water Oak. Hawthorne and Continental/Pennbrooke will not be returning this summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Oak Tournament Roster (Division 2)

Having received several complaints from D2 managers, Dave asked John Betts (WO) to explain the state of the WO roster during the tournament.

John stated that:

- Two players were legally added “for the remainder of the season” by the EB at our last meeting even though they were voluntarily on the “will not play” list for 2009-2010. (See Minutes from 03-02-2010)
- The roster grew to 17 players as players became available when the WO D4 team chose not to participate in the tournament.
- Del Webb approved the men for the tournament

Dan Bird (DW) indicated that the men were approved to play because of injuries that had occurred to 2 former division 1 players. During the tournament games played at WO, he was not made aware that the players approved to help fill the roster *as well* as the players that were reported as injured and not available to play had all played.

The secretary confirmed that the WO manager had represented to him that Eschbach and Kullman were needed because Van Mol and Prosnick would not be able to play.

John Betts indicated that he now had a better view of the issue and would address it within their community.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Dave introduced the topic expressing his disappointment at recent incidents involving teams/players from the S&F league. He endorsed the purpose of the league as expressed in Article II of our constitution: “The goal of this organization is to provide an opportunity for players living in adult communities to participate in a competitive and fun softball league, with a focus on safety, that is dedicated to good sportsmanship, exercise and camaraderie with fellow senior athletes”.

The following incidents were discussed at length.

1. Final Regular Season Game in Division 1: PL at DWG

Del Webb Complaint:

Discussion was based on an email from the DWG manager who complained about the behavior and abusive language of the PL manager. From his perspective, the PL team arrived late and yet wanted batting practice (precluded by DW), the manager became belligerent and things only became worse from that point. There were several ball and strike calls, and a slide play at second base that aroused the ire of the PL manager even more. The DW team was upset by the profane language and hostile attitude of PL. The behavior was not in keeping with the spirit of S&F.

Mike VanNostrand (PL Manager and Park Rep) reported that:

- a. The DW manager had called suggesting that the game need not be played.
- b. Late arrival was due to traffic.
- c. His team threw for 5 minutes and then wanted to hit (approximately 9:10am) – his players were upset when this was denied.
- d. Yes, he did become loud but only because DW players were screaming.
- e. After what he considered to be extended verbal provocation by a DW coach, he offered to settle it in the parking lot.
- f. He did not recall using profane language but admitted that he was angry with the “terrible umpires” and that his second baseman was angered the slide. (Mike reported that he thought it was a clean play).
- g. Mike reported that he had gotten his revenge in the tournament.

It was observed by the CC Park Rep that there obviously was a history between the two teams that was not part of the discussion.

Dave concluded the discussion by pointing out that the last October, the PL Manager had threatened not to travel to DW just to get their rear-ends kicked, and that there were obviously significant

internal matters that must be dealt with by PL. For example: Players not playing at appropriate skill levels, players unwilling to travel and players who have a greater commitment to another league as illustrated by the performance of PL in the tournament that included a forfeit.

Dave indicated that if PL cannot field a D1 team that will participate fully in the S&F schedule, then PL would do well to consider not entering a team. The issues raised must be resolved by PL.

2. Incident at Pennbrooke during Tournament: PE Umpire strikes Pitcher

Les Moore (PE) presented a report on the incident with the following facts:

- a. Umpire was Earl Duffey (also D3 assistant manager for PE) and Bill Cantrell (P –ST)
 - b. ST pitcher was abusive, arguing pitches that were ruled illegal (too high).
 - c. Following repeated high pitches, the umpire approached the mound and ejected the Pitcher.
 - d. The pitcher became verbally profane and abusive.
 - e. The umpire (in an act that he regrets) hit the Pitcher in the head, knocking the pitcher's glasses off.
 - f. The pitcher retaliated.
- *See Appendix 2 for an email from the PE D3 manager to the league and a reply from Bob Hein (ST D3 Manager).

Bob Hein (Manager, Division 3 Stonecrest) described the event from his perspective.

- a. He was in the outfield and could not hear the verbal exchanges.
- b. The umpire called several pitches illegal-high and warned the pitcher to get his pitches down.
- c. When the pitcher continued to throw high pitches, the umpire ejected the pitcher.
- d. Words were exchanged, the umpire approached the pitcher on the mound.
- e. Apparently more heated words were exchanged and the umpire struck the pitcher knocking off his glasses.

Dave Sparrow concluded the discussion noting: physical violence is a significant violation of the Sun & Fun spirit that can never be justified; the Executive Board will consider this issue at the first fall meeting to determine what course of action (if any) the league should take. Dave asked the EB to be prepared with recommendations.

3. Incident during the Tournament at Stonecrest involving Division 5 Del Webb Player

Dan Bird (DW) explained that during the tournament a player who was unhappy with the performance of his teammates and manager lost control of his emotions. The player used loud, abusive, vulgar language on the field. After being removed from the game by the manager, the player's tirade continued in the concessions area as the player departed. The incident did not involve the other team or the umpires directly.

Dan reported that as President of the DW Softball Club he had already suspended the player indefinitely from all softball club activities. Further, he reported that the DW Operating Committee would meet on 03-31-2010 (tomorrow) to determine the exact length and nature of the suspension.

Dave Sparrow thanked Dan for his report, and praised DW for taking full responsibility for resolving this instance of unsportsmanlike behavior without requiring involvement by the league. He asked Dan to report the outcome of the operating committee's deliberation.

Bats and Balls

SummerGlen moved that "For a one year trial period, the Miken Ultra II for Senior Softball be legalized for use in Division 1." Rich Gyger (ST) seconded the motion.

Highlights of the Discussion:

- Hal Dod (VP) spoke in favor of the proposition indicating that it would resolve issues of illegal bats and that the cost was affordable (< \$200).
- John West (SC) indicated that he did not think that the motion would resolve the illegal bat issue.
- John Graffeo (LG) said that he opposed the motion because it would destroy the game as it is now played by eliminating the role of defense on our smaller fields, but that if it was to be passed it should include all divisions not just Division 1.
- Dan Bird (DW) reported that the manufacturer does not warrant the bat, and cost is an issue.
- Curt Shaffer (CB) indicated that neither of his teams was interested, and that defense must not be taken out of the game.
- Jim Milligan (SL) indicated opposition and that he had read a report on the Internet that the bat had a very limited life expectancy. Hal Dod strongly rejected Mr. Milligan's statement.

The discussion lasted about 20 minutes during which time a majority of the Park Reps expressed opinions.

Dave Sparrow closed the discussion by calling for a roll call vote.

The motion was defeated 12-3. Voting in favor were: Spruce Creek, Stonecrest and SummerGlen.

John West asked permission to offer another motion and was asked to wait to the segment of the meeting for Other New Business.

2010-2011 Alignment

Dave Sparrow outlined the procedure that will be followed to set the alignment for the Fall Season.

- The Operating Committee will develop a proposal by the end of August.
- The proposal will be emailed to the Executive Board.
- Communities with objections to the alignment will be invited to a meeting to present their issues in the middle of September. Park Reps who choose to challenge the alignment should be prepared with rosters of their players.
- The Operating Committee will review the issues raised at the meeting and make adjustments as is deemed appropriate.
- The modified alignment will be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the first fall meeting in October.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Bats

John West (SC) made the following motion: "That for a trial period of one year in all Divisions, each team will provide 4 legal bats for use in each game. Any player from either team will be permitted to use any of the total of 8 bats." Larry Reinker (RH) seconded the motion.

Following a request by Curt Shaffer (CB) that he be allowed to discuss the motion with his players, the Executive Board unanimously decided to table the motion until the next Executive Board Meeting.

Fall Executive Board Meetings

The Secretary announced that hosts are needed for the Fall Meetings.

First Meeting: Tuesday, October 5 or Friday October 8 (Attendance 20)

Agenda: Election of Officers, Approval of 2010-2011 Alignment

Second Meeting: Tuesday, October 26 or Friday, October 29 (Attendance 50)

Agenda: Divisional Manager's Meeting

The Park Reps were asked to check for the availability of meeting space in their communities and email the secretary.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.

Respectfully submitted,

pm

Secretary/Treasurer

Community Representatives in Attendance

Clerbrook - Curt Shaffer
Dave Sparrow, President
Continental - Mike Dineen
Del Webb - Dan Bird
Hawthorne – Jim Herbert for Gary Butler
Holiday Travel - Dave Harrod
Lakes at Leesburg - Jim Spaulding
Legacy - John Graffeo (arrived 10:45 car breakdown)
Pennbrooke - Les Moore
Plantation - Mike VanNostrand
D4 - Jim Spaulding
Royal Highlands - Larry Reinker
Spruce Creek -John West
Stonecrest - Rich Gyger
Summer Glen - Al Cleveland
Sunlake - Jim Milligan
Water Oak – John Betts

Officers & Division Reps

Hal Dod, Vice President
Paul Malashevitz, Sec-Treas.

Division Representatives

D1 - **ABSENT** - Rick Smith
D2 - Jim Milligan
D3 - **ABSENT** - Paul Carfagna
D5 – **ABSENT** - Mark Skigen

To: Dave Sparrow, President Sun and Fun Softball
Paul Malashevitz, Secretary of Sun and Fun Softball
From: Bruce Setler, Manager Pennbrooke Div. 3, Division 3 Tournament Director for Pennbrooke Softball
Re: Disturbance at Division 3 Tournament

03/23/2010:

During the StoneCrest vs. Holiday Travel game at the tournament, an incident occurred. The umpires for the game were Earl Duffey behind the plate and Jim Bragdon in the field. StoneCrest's pitcher was Bill Cantrell. I was off the field attending to other Tournament related business and did not personally witness the incident.

I was summonsed to the field because of an altercation involving a number of Stonecrest players and the umpires. As I went on to the field I observed several StoneCrest players grabbing umpire Earl Duffey and one of them had him in a choke type hold. I ordered everyone to back off and break it up. It took several minutes to restore some form of order but the StoneCrest players insisted in continuing the disturbance and would not follow instructions to clear the field and let me sort it out. One player in particular, Bill Cantrell, tried to push his way towards Umpire Duffey and was hollering and calling him a liar.

I located the coach of StoneCrest, Bob Hein, and advised him to get his players off of the field and that he was the only one from StoneCrest that I was interested in talking to right then. They continued to cause a disturbance but most backed off. A few threats against Umpire Duffey were called out, one being that one player would put his foot up Earl's ass.

I was informed by witnesses from off of the field that Umpire Duffey had gone to the pitcher and told him something. As he was walking away the pitcher, Bill Cantrell said something and Umpire Duffey

threw him out of the game. Cantrell not only would not leave the game but he pursued Umpire Duffey and said something else and twice more Umpire Duffey told him that he was out of the game. Umpire Duffey walked away and Cantrell said something else and Umpire Duffey spun around and slapped Cantrell knocking his glasses off.

I spoke with Umpire Earl Duffey and he stated that he had called several pitches, by Bill Cantrell, as high and therefore balls. Cantrell objected so he went out to explain it to him. Cantrell called him a profanity so Umpire Duffey threw him out of the game. Cantrell wouldn't leave and called Umpire Duffey additional profanities finally calling him a "Fucking Asshole!". Umpire Duffey stated that he spun around and hit Cantrell knocking his glasses off. Umpire Duffey said that he should not have allowed himself to be baited like that.

I advised Umpire Duffey that he would not be allowed to continue to umpire the game and that he would be removed from the umpire roster for the remainder of the Tournament. I advised Coach Hein that Bill Cantrell had been thrown out of the game prior to the striking incident so he was ejected from the game with his next at bat becoming an out. Some of the StoneCrest players continued to cause a disturbance so I advised Coach Hein that I wanted the game to go on and if it didn't they would forfeit the game. The Coach got his team back on the field ready to play and the game proceeded with a different Home Plate umpire and StoneCrest pitcher.

There were no repeats of the disturbance and the rest of the Tournament went off without incident.

Umpire Duffey's actions were as an umpire and not as a player. I did not prohibit him from playing in the Tournament as a player nor did I prohibit Bill Cantrell from participating in their next two games. I felt it more appropriate to allow the League to examine the evidence and make it's own determination as to any sanctions against both individuals.

The players for Holiday travel were witnesses to the incident as were many spectators. One player for Holiday Travel, that I was informed heard the comments, was Mel Curran.

As Earl Duffey's coach I hope that his actions as an umpire do not negatively effect him as a player. As an aside, Earl Duffey is one of the best and most knowledgeable umpires we have. That does not excuse his actions and I expect that you will be both firm and fair to both parties involved.

Bruce E. Setler
Pennbrooke Softball Club
Manager/Coach of Division 3

April 11, 2010
Email Reply:

I want to respond to the letter from Pennbrooke posted on the Sun Fun and web-site (Disturbance at the Division 3 tournament). The letter suggests the blame is on Bill Cantrell and Stonecrest, and it's not what happened during the incident.

- 1) First of all Earl Duffy is 58 and Bill Cantrell is 75, and under no circumstances should a umpire strike a player.
- 2) After some disagreement over high pitches Earl Duffy told Bill Cantrell if you say another word you're out of the game. Bill Cantrell asked Earl Duffy to explain why this inning he was calling high pitches when he wasn't before. Earl said your out of here. Bill Cantrell said ump your not being fair, Earl Duffy then charged the mound and got in Bill Cantrell's face words were exchanged and Earl Duffy hit Bill Cantrell in the face with his fist. Earl Duffy was totally out of control.
- 3) There never was a threat from any of my players against Earl Duffy. In fact there was a threat from Earl Duffy against my 2nd baseman who was trying to hold Earl Duffy back from taking another swing at Bill Cantrell (There never was a choke hold on Earl Duffy). My players were only trying to prevent Earl Duffy from going after Bill Cantrell again.

4) There never was any profanity from Bill Cantrell to Earl Duffy.

5) Bill Cantrell was the victim on this day and not Earl Duffy.

6) At the 3/30/10 meeting Dave Harrod from Holiday Travel who happened to be on the on deck circle during the game verified my assessment as to what happened during the disturbance.

The letter posted on the web-site is totally untrue as to what really happened on that day. Bill Cantrell, me and the Stonecrest Softball Association are very upset about this untrue letter being posted on the web-site. If possible I would appreciate this email being posted on the web-site as an amendment.

Sincerely,
Bob Hein
Manager, Stonecrest Division 3