

Fall Season 2023 General Meeting and Awards Presentation Minutes November 7, 2023

The Softball Club General Meeting and Awards Presentation began at 6 pm with a banquet attended by approximately 138 members and guests. Quinn's Catering provided a delicious meal for the attendees. John Heavener blessed the meal and Greg Russell provided background music for the dinner hour.

After dinner, the Fall Season 2023 General Meeting was brought to order by Ed Hance, Softball Board President at 7:00 pm. Ed thanked all who were in attendance and began the meeting by introducing the members of the 2023 Board, who were elected at the November 2022 meeting. Ed Hance, President; Jim Wilson, Vice President; Cathy Russell, Secretary; and Tom Restaino, Treasurer.

The next order of business was the Club Financial Report presented by Tom Restaino, club Treasurer. Tom provided numbers for the full year of 2023. The club started the year with a balance of \$5,900. Income during the year totaled \$40,800, of which \$24,000 came from our sponsors. He enumerated some of the larger purchases made during the year, as follows:

Golf Cart - \$4,300

Pitching Machine - \$3,100

Top dressing for the outfield - \$3,500

Donation to MAG (Military Affairs Group) for the new veteran's monument - \$2,500

Replacement of the yellow fence topping for safety reasons – \$1,756

Modifications made to the existing stands for safety reasons - \$888

Two new pitching screens - \$653

Two new canopies - \$396

Field maintenance supplies and equipment were a major part of this year's expenses. Additionally, ten new bats and many balls were purchased. The cost of operating the Softball Club is great, and we are always thankful to our wonderful sponsors. Tom encouraged members present to patronize our sponsors whenever possible.

Tom also mentioned that during our Hometown Heroes game, and the events leading up to the game, the club raised \$8,400, which was split between the Griffin Police Department and the Griffin Fire Rescue Department for their annual Holiday gift drive to purchase Christmas gifts for local area families.

The club will end the year with a balance of approximately \$1,000, which should please the HOA as they generally do not like clubs to carry-over large balances into the next year.

After the Financial Report, Ed told the member present that, unlike previous meetings, Cathy (the club secretary) would not be required to read the Spring 2023 meeting minutes since they had been sent in advance to all club members for review. Ed asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as previously presented. With no changes, Ed asked for a motion to accept the Spring Season 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Bob Crane made the motion, and it was seconded by Linda Lillie. The motion was approved unanimously by a spoken vote.

Ed continued by taking a few minutes to recognize the volunteers that make this club so successful. He said that running a 200-person organization, scheduling and conducting over 60 individual games this

season, countless practices, maintaining a high-quality field and facilities was not something that the Board could ever hope to accomplish without the help of the many volunteers who have dedicated the time to help make the club the success it is.

First, he recognized the League Coordinators, who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of their leagues. They act as information conduits between the Board and team managers, they coordinate field scheduling, ensure there are adequate supplies to conduct the games and handle issues related to their league as they arise. They are vital to the Board as the front-line interface to the managers and players.

Ed then introduced the League Coordinators as follows:

Men's League Coordinators: Chris Pacitti – A League and Thad Long – B League

Ladies League Coordinators: Vickie McBride and Triffy Pacitti

CORT: Bob Crane and Patsy Cash. Although Jim Wilson did not wish to have his name included in those who assisted with CORT, a member in attendance stated that Jim Wilson also played a vital role in CORT.

The next group of volunteers introduced were the special individuals who take on the responsibilities required to be a team manager. This job takes a special commitment to not only try and build a winning team through lots of practice and skill-building sessions, but to also handle all of the administrative duties attached to the job, including finding substitute players, managing rosters, distributing jerseys, filling out accident reports, etc. Ed then introduced the managers and asked those in attendance to stand and remain standing until everyone was named.

Ladies League:

Minit Car Wash – Diane Pippin and her assistant, Linda Lillie
Visiting Angels – Teresa Pierce and her assistant, Jeannie Applebaum
Georgia Banking – Sue Heiss and her assistant, Lee Ann Howington

Men's B-League:

Cool Screens – Jerry Libby and his assistant, Dean Cowan
Pace Physical Therapy – John Heavener and his assistant, Wayne McBride
Bryan Miller CPA – Kevin Marx and his assistant, Jeff Empie
A Christian Plumber – Mike Psurny and his assistant, Greg Russell

Men's A-League:

Perdue Paint & Body – Joe Marx and his assistant, Dave Fields
Peachtree Golf Cars – Morgan Fisher and his assistant, Bob Ley
Sons Honda – Steve Kirchem and his assistant, Gary Mistovich
Blasingame Pest Management – Dale Fields and his assistant, Tom Rodems

Support Personnel – Ed stated that these are the people that allow the games to be played. He stated that although we're all about playing the game of softball, there are lots of folks who work alongside the players and in the background to make sure all games can successfully be played. He went on to say he

wished to recognize these important committees and groups without whom we would be unable to conduct our league games.

Officials: Ed stated that it takes a special person to volunteer their time to go out on the field of play and officiate all of our games. The umpires not only have to be proficient with all the rules of softball and our local rules, but they willingly put themselves out there knowing there will always be that not-so-nice criticism of their calls from fans, managers and players that invariably comes with the job.

Ed then introduced the umpires, asking all in attendance to stand. He gave special recognition to Mike Smith, the Coordinator of Umpires and his team for all that they do. Other umpires were named as follows:

Bob Crane, Ladies League Lead and Steve Stevenson, Ladies League Assistant Lead
Carey McRae, Men's B-League Lead and Mark Rettig, Men's B-League Assistant Lead
Mike Smith, Men's A-League Lead and Tom Restaino, Men's A-League Assistant Lead
Other umpires were named as follows: Rick Brown, Jerry Bandy, Brad Carr, Keith Evans, Noli Ewing, Sue Heiss, Mark Johannsen, Jay Knight, Phyllis Lee, Lessie Lynch, Tim Martin, Mike Pepper, Teresa Pierce, Dan Sherman, Mike Sinyard, Mary Louise Upshaw and Gary Wackerlin.

The next group that Ed introduced were the people that take a special pride in making our ball field into what is a first-rate place to play softball. Tom Rodems, who heads the team, was not in attendance, but Ed said how much Tom is appreciated for all the time and effort he puts into his role as our head groundskeeper and field maintenance coordinator. He provided the guidance and supervision that was required to do our field renovations, as well as the almost daily field maintenance regimen required to play games at least five days a week. Ed also recognized the team of men who serve with Tom. Mark Rettig and his knowledge and efforts have been most appreciated and taken a huge load off of Tom's shoulders. Other valuable members of the team are Lindsay Lancaster, Phil Holbrook and Jeff James.

The next two groups recognized are at every single game and ensure that everyone knows the score of the game, as well as how all the players performed during the season.

The Scoreboard Operations Coordinator, Tom Janecek, and his team were asked to stand, as well as the Scorekeeper Coordinators and Statisticians, Al Deluca and Vickie McBride and their teams.

Ed stated that the Board wished to convey many thanks to Al Deluca for always doing a thorough job of maintaining the men's league stats, and also wished to give an extra thanks to Vickie McBride for stepping up this year to keep track of the Ladies League stats. The Board is very appreciative to both of these individuals for a job well done!

The Scheduling Committee, consisting of Mark Rettig and Jessie Knighton was also recognized, as was the Sponsor and Concessions Coordinator, Debbie Dickinson, and Sue Heiss, who worked with Debbie this year.

Also recognized was the club's Saturday Game Day Announcer, Scott Martin, with appreciation given to Greg Russell, who filled in for Scott on one Saturday when Scott couldn't be at the ball field due to a family obligation.

Our Photographer, George Bradley, was also recognized and thanked for his services provided to the club.

Other Committee Chairs and committee members were recognized as follows:

The Health and Safety Committee, headed up by Triffy Pacitti, does an absolutely awesome job of keeping the medical supplies stocked, as well as being our first responder to medical issues at the field. Special thanks also to our additional club members who make up the emergency response team. They include Lynn Psurny, Thad Long, Lori Wallace and Lance Guderian.

Ladies League and Men's League Rules Committees are made up of the following Members:

Ladies League committee consists of the current season's managers, plus this year included Marva Blocker, Sandra Hunt, Bella Jones and April Morgan.

Men's B-League consists of Bob Baxendale, Lindsay Lancaster, Billy Craddock and Thad Long.

Men's A-League consists of Greg Russell, Steve Kirchem, and Lance Guderian.

Ladies League and Men's Competition Committees are made up of the following Members:

Ladies League consists of the current season's managers, plus this year included Bev Callahan, Karen Sinyard, Missy Kirchem, Patsy Cash and Vickie McBride.

Men's B-League consists of Bob Baxendale, Lindsay Lancaster, Ray Miller, Denny Ryther and Thad Long.

Men's A-League consists of Bob Crane, Dan Wallace, Tom Rodems, Mike Morgan, Mark Roy and Chris Pacitti.

The Audit Committee was Steve Stevenson and Mary Hickey.

Player Development Committee was coordinated by Mike Berry and included Gus Evans, Lauren Ingraham, Lori Wallace and Bob Crane.

The Protest and Conduct Committee was coordinated by Jim Hines and included Mary Louise Upshaw and Bob Baxendale.

The Veteran's Day Committee was coordinated by Carey McRae and included Norma Kaping, Gus Evans and Lauren Ingraham.

The Charity/Hometown Heroes Committee was coordinated by Alan Smithwick with assistance from Steve Kirchem.

And the Nomination Committee included Mike Smith (Chairperson), Jessie Knighton, Noli Ewing, and Lindsay Lancaster and were congratulated for a job well done.

Thanks was offered once more to all of the volunteers that make the club function and Ed called for a big round of applause for all of these folks.

The next item on the agenda was the Board Elections for 2024. One current board position is expiring this year. Cathy Russell will be leaving the board as her 2-year time limit has been reached. After the Nominating Committee completed their task, the Board was presented with a slate of four officers running unopposed. Election results were announced as follows:

Tom Restaino will serve his second year as Club Treasurer; Cathy will pass her baton to Mike Smith, who will be our new Club Secretary; Triffy Pacitti will bring all her experience as a coordinator and manager to her new role as the Club Vice President; and Mark Rettig is stepping back into his role as Club President. If anyone has any interest in being a member of the Nominating Committee in 2024, please make this known to one of the 2024 Board Members or send an email to the club email account.

The next item on the agenda was a reminder about the club website to club members. The address is scpssoftball.org and many items are posted to the site, including schedules, game results, league standings, etc. Progress is being made towards the roll-out of Phase II.

Ed then provided a recap of some of the projects completed during 2023 or still in the planning stages, as follows:

Completed this year:

- Replacement of the water fountain (not our project)
- Relocation of the existing display cases to the back side of the building
- Purchase and installation of a new information display case
- Replacement of the batting tee and repair of a damaged ball bag
- Procurement of several pieces of equipment for field maintenance
- Installed permanent awning/covering for game announcer
- Purchase of a pitching/ball machine (there are limitations, e.g. training, ball sizes)
- Replaced the yellow fence cap that had deteriorated
- Purchased golf cart for maintenance, so the field crew didn't have to keep using their carts
- Joint project with MAG, honoring our veterans
- Installed steps at both ends of the bleachers (John Heavener and Tom Janacek's idea)
- Applied top dressing to the outfield (to reduce bad bounces, etc.)

Ongoing:

- Field lighting proposal (submitted to CAC; but it failed to move to the next step)
- Ice Machine in storage room of sports building; waiting on next step from the HOA

Future:

- Expect more surveys focused on current issues
- Permanent covered concrete pad plus water/electricity for concessions
- Permanent sound system and speakers
- Additional shade structure along first-base side
- Purchase bleachers for third base side

There are also a number of significant accomplishments that the club has done year, including:

A new 117-page Policy & Procedures Manual. This was a brain child of Mark's and the 2023 Board put significant time and energy into crafting the finalized document.

Bat testing for club and personal bats continued to further ensure player safety

Participation in the Club Expo in January
Provided volunteers for the Vendor Fair to earn extra funds
CORT (Co-Ed Recreational Team)

Ed asked Bob Crane to speak briefly about the accomplishments of the new CORT group.

Ed advised that Spring Season dates would be posted to the club website as soon as they were finalized, as well as being emailed to the membership. However, based on the 2023 spring season, below is an estimated schedule for Spring 2024.

Personal Bat Testing:	Saturday February 17 & 24 Noon - 2:00 pm at the field
LL Pre-Draft Meeting:	Sunday February 18, 3:00 pm
ML Pre-Draft Meeting:	Sunday February 25, 3:00 pm
LL Draft:	Wednesday February 28, 3:00 pm
ML-A Draft:	Sunday March 3, 3:00 pm
ML-B Draft:	Wednesday March 6, 3:00 pm
Pre-Season Games:	Monday March 18 – Friday March 22
Opening Day:	Saturday March 23

At this time, Ed opened the floor for questions and/or comments by those in attendance.

Lauren Ingraham asked if something could be done to update the restrooms at the ballpark. The response was that it was the understanding of the Board that the HOA had plans to at least make some repairs.

Next, the program continued with the Awards Presentations.

Awards Presentation

The first group recognized was the Ladies League Select Team Members, Managers and Coaches.

2023 FALL SEASON LADIES SELECT TEAM

Coordinators - Vickie McBride

Manager - Bob Crane

Coach - Patsy Cash

Maureen Chuang

Triffy Pacitti

Janine Fearon

Teresa Pierce

Lisa Hart-Gray

Diane Pippin

Sue Heiss

Bev Rettig

Dani Jones

Nancy Spencer

Esther Meininger

Lori Wallace

April Morgan

Next were the Individual Awards and each recipient received a medallion and a certificate.

Batting Average – (Please note that for this season, ladies must have completed 23 at-bats to be eligible).

Ladies League:

1st Place: Maureen Chuang – 0.739

2nd Place: Diane Pippin – 0.710

3rd Place: Lori Wallace – 0.667

4th Place: Sue Heiss – 0.600

5th Place: Janine Fearon – 0.593

Men's B-League:

1st Place: Kevin Marx – 0.717

2nd Place: Bill Garner – 0.707

3^d Place: Dan Hunt – 0.690

4th Place: Chris Lash – 0.676

5th Place: Andy Glantz/Ken Nears (tied) – 0.615

Men's A-League:

1st Place: Jimmy Marr – 0.667

2nd Place: Alan Smithwick – 0.623

3rd Place: Matt Simmons – 0.617

4th Place: Mike Morgan: 0.600

5th Place: Dan Lash – 0.556

Most Home Runs this Season: Mike Fry with 6 home runs

First time over-the-fence home run hitter receiving an engraved mini bat was Kevin Marx.

The next presentation was Team Awards. First was the League Season Champions. Plaques for each winning team to present to their sponsors will be provided to the team manager soon.

Team Members will receive long-sleeve Championship t-shirts. Their team's name and picture will also be placed on the Perpetual Plaque display at the softball field.

Ladies League Champions: Minit Car Wash

Marva Blocker

Debbie Brian

Bev Farinha

Janine Fearon

Lauren Ingraham

Diane Pippin

Pattie Restaino

Bev Rettig

Karen Sinyard

Karen Smith

Nancy Spencer

Diane Pippin, Manager; Linda Lillie, Assistant Manager

Men's B-League Season Champions: Pace Physical Therapy

Larry Anderson

Jerry Cook

Dennis Fees

Gordon Finn

Andy Glantz

Dennis Gray

Gordy Gruhl

John Heavener

Dan Hunt

Jack Ingraham

Byron Pearce

Randy Scott

John Heavener, Manager; Wayne McBride, Assistant Manager

Men's A-League Season Champions: Perdue Paint & Body

Joe Hickey

Jeff James

Scooter Kinnett

Joe Marx

Mark McCammon

Bryan Miller

Brett Pippin

Matt Simmons
Dan Wallace
Duke Williams
Jim Wilson
Joe Marx, Manager; Dave Fields, Assistant Manager

Next, the end of season Tournament Champions were recognized. The winning teams received a gift card to be used as the team determines and their team picture will be displayed on the Perpetual Plaque at the softball field.

Ladies League EOS Tournament Champions: Visiting Angels

Earnestine Black
Maureen Chuang
Tammy Griner
Denise Guy
Lisa Hart-Gray
Dani Jones
Bonnie Morton
Triffy Pacitti
Teresa Pierce
Linda Simmons
Susan Williams
Teresa Pierce, Manager; Jeannie Applebaum, Assistant Manager

Men's B-League EOS Tournament Champions: Bryan Miller CPA

George Bradley
Jack Jensen
Dave Main
Stan Manous
Kevin Marx
Dave Miller
Ray Miller
Ken Nears
Steve Pierce
Bill Rees
Tony Sheffield
John Vreeland
Kevin Marx, Manager; Jeff Empie, Assistant Manager

Men's A-League EOS Tournament Champions: Peachtree Golf Cars

Mark Acres
Mike Berry
Rodney Duncan
Morgan Fisher
James Freeman
Mike Fry
Dan Lash
Mike Morgan

Mike Richotte
John Snow
Craig Stoller
Morgan Fisher, Manager; Bob Ley, Assistant Manager

President's Awards were given to Debbie Dickinson, Tom Janecek, Ray Miller, Roy Wilson and Cathy Russell.

With the end of the Awards Presentation, Ed thanked everyone for coming to the banquet and for a great Fall season! He said we hope to see all of you at the ballpark again soon!