WECSSO



WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ORGANIZATION

SUMMER EDITION Volume 26 JUNE 2015

SLO-PITCH REPORT -Ron Ottogalli BECAUSE WE CAN

Over the winter months, when the slo-pitch committee meets to prepare for the upcoming season, I research various senior slo-pitch leagues to see what rules that they have incorporated into their leagues. If I feel that a particular rule would be of benefit to the players in our league, I bring it forward to the slo-pitch committee for discussion. One league that I was researching was a senior league comprised of players over the age of eighty. Many times the players were asked "why are they playing slo-pitch at such an advanced age." Their answer: BECAUSE WE CAN!!!!

Their answer got me to thinking. Do players in our league or any senior league for that matter; realize how fortunate they are to still be playing slo-pitch at our advanced ages. A senior's lifestyle of today is a far cry from the lifestyle of our parents and grandparents. Playing ball at our age would have been unthinkable. Again I ask the question: do we realize how lucky we are to be physically active and to be able not only to play slo-pitch, but a number of sports. However this could end in an instant. We can go from being physically active to being a spectator very quickly. What we enjoy doing now, we may not be able to do in the future due to injury or sickness. We do not realize how good we have it until it is too late. That is why we should ENJOY THE MOMENT.

Enjoy playing this wonderful game amongst players that you got to know over the years and whose friendship and camaraderie you look forward to each and every game. Enjoy playing a competitive game but also do not forget to have fun along the way. Enjoy staying after the game to socialize with your fellow players-who cares if they just beat you- you are amongst friends who just like to "chew the fat" or "shoot the bull" after the game. Think of it as a sort of our seniors "social hour". Enjoy the good times on the field-key hit or a nice fielding play and do not fret about the bad times- making an error or making out at a crucial time. Who cares? Enjoy the fact that you had a chance to hit or to field a ball-some cannot do this anymore-they would love a chance to make an error or to get a key hit-this would mean that they are still able to play.

Enjoy each and every game-do not take it so seriously-do not take yourself so seriously. So what if you did not hit well or play well - the point is you are playing and having fun playing a game you love-amongst friends. What more can you ask for????

In closing, hopefully you are able to play this wonderful game for many years and when asked why you are still playing at your advanced age-you can respond: BECAUSE I CAN.

Ron Ottogalli



President Brian's Corner

"He pulls on his helmet, picks up his bat,

And walks to the plate, gotta hit and that's that"

Yes it's that time of year again, one we all look forward to, the smell of fresh cut green grass on the diamond, seasoned leather and that cold one after the game. Welcome back and a special welcome to all our new players this year in our league. We know you are going to enjoy playing with us and we hope you decide to stay with us year after year.

Both the WECSSO and Slo-Pitch Executives were very busy over the winter preparing for the 2015 season. The WECSSO executive set up a Marketing Committee under Lido Sandre's chairmanship with the directive of putting our name out there to attract new members for our Slo-pitch League. An advertising campaign was set up with ads in the Guardian, (Unifor Newsletter), Teacher's newsletter, the Windsor Star and posters put up in union halls, Community and Senior Centres. We have had some success with this campaign as we have 50 new members in the league. To get a better idea of how the ad campaign went, Bob Parent, our Past President, will out in the next couple of weeks to canvass the new players to see how they found out about our league.

We had a beautiful day for Opening Day. It was nice to see members from all 3 divisions out that day. Special thanks to Geoff McKay for opening prayers and to Bob Parent for his remembrance of those players that have passed away. This year we were honoured to have Arlene Deschamps, throw out the first pitch. Arlene's husband, Lou, played with us for many years. He was active on the Executive as treasurer and worked on the Bingo Committee with Bill Fleming and Jim Bridge.

Jim Bridge, Bill Fleming and Jack Gibbons continue to do an excellent job at running our bingos at Classic IV on Ottawa Street. It is good to see some of our members have volunteered to help them. A 4-man crew is usually required. They would like to see more members volunteer. If you can help out, please call Jim at 519-969-9029 or Bill at 519-948-9984.

Special thanks to Tom Bois and his committee for organizing and running the Lou Dupuis Memorial Bowling fundraiser. This is the 11th year the event has been carried out with another successful year, bringing the total money raised over \$65,000. Look for Tom's report in this issue.

Are you using our website? Look us up at www.wecsso.com. Information regarding game cancellations will be on the home page, front and centre. Also on the home page you can click on to postings that members submit for everyone's attention. If you have an event or information you would like posted, please email me or Carla Hicks, our webmaster. Carla, as always, is keeping our website up to date with the latest information. New this year is a link to AccuWeather for the latest weather info. Also new, on the right hand side there is a link to Facebook.

President's message cont'd

Len Dupuis, a Blue Division player, has set up a Facebook page titled wecsso slowpitch and the WECSSO Executive is adopting it as our "official" Facebook page. A number of players have already started to use the page. Look for more info on this from Len in this issue.

Enjoy your year. See you on the diamonds.

"DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IMPOSSIBLE AND THE POSSIBLE, LIES IN A PERSON'S DETERMINATION."

Tommy Lasorda

Slo-Pitch Blue Division

The Blue Division got off to a great start this year with 6 teams and 16 players per team. This is actually more than the recommended number by the Slo-Pitch Executive; but with a few late registrations we allowed it. The feedback from managers and players is that this is too many, especially when everyone is there – 5 players have to sit on the bench and trying to work in all the players is too frankly too much for the manager. With a few player injuries and vacations, managers have been fortunate to work with an average of 13 - 14 players. Please be aware that next year we will start a waiting list after the set number per team have registered. That number may be 15 or possibly 14. There will be no exceptions. Thus if you go to Florida, be sure you register and pay before you go; otherwise you will be on the waiting list. Registrations are confirmed when form and money is in the hand of the registrar.

We have 3 new managers in the Blue Division. Special Thanks to Jim Bashura, Chris Brennan and Dan MacPherson for stepping up to fill the vacancies. They are doing a great job. I would also like to thank Len Dupuis, Jim Miller and Dave Morneau for the many years of managing, all three put in with Gary Morris, Phil Ochs and myself. The managers and players have formed many new friendships and while remaining very competitive and play the game for its enjoyment and camaraderie. It was a blessing to see Jack Westlake recover from a heart attack earlier this spring. With an opening on the executive Jack was invited to take on a position which he accepted. Jack and I work as co-ordinators for the division.

Upon reading this report, the Secondary Draft will have been completed. Our purpose for having it is to ensure that teams are balanced and that all teams have their fair chance at winning a game. Players enjoy the game and are motivated to take part when they feel they and their team are competitive with the others. You are not going to take away the competitive part of this sport we love. It is an inherent part of the game and most players look forward to the playoffs. For those players that were transferred to different teams, I thank you for your patience and understanding with our league philosophy.

The league playoff format has changed this year. In the Blue Division, following a double round robin, the top four teams will compete in a semi-final round, (1st vs 2nd, 3rd vs 4th). The winner of the 1st vs 2nd games goes to the Championship game. The loser of that game plays a sudden death game against the winner of the 3rd vs 4th game. The winner of that game will compete in the Championship game.

Players, thank you for your patience with adjusting to the rule changes this year. I think we have most of the "kinks" out now. You are welcome to make any suggestion for change next year. You can relay those ideas to your managers or Jack and I. Enjoy the remainder of the season. Brian Adlam

We are sponsoring a young boy, Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez, from Nicaragua. This is our sixth year sponsoring him. He is eleven years old and is in grade 4. Jerson lives with his sister and parents in the small community of Oscar Turcios in the city of Esteli which is 150 kilometres north of the capital, Managua. His mother is a homemaker and his father is a Subsistence farmer.

We received a Child Progress Report from the Christian Children's Fund of Canada on May 19/15 indicating that Jerson is doing well. The report also shared information on activities in the areas of education, health and nutrition, water/sanitation and hygiene that are being provided to families within his community. Following last year's earthquake, families this year have been invited to be part of an anti-disaster committee Some 115 families and members were trained on disaster prevention, damage assessment and risk scenarios. Because of this effort, the community now has emergency plans in case of disasters. The following letter was received from Jerson on June 11/15.

Dear WECSSO,

Hello sponsor. How are you? I hope you and your family are well. My family and I are well, thank God. My father works in the fields to support our home. I have a beautiful 3 month old niece called Ashley Noemi. I am doing well in school; I like to participate and I complete my homework. I have many friends and we get along well. On the weekends, I go out to the fields with my father and play with my cousins and friends. We would like to know: what do you and your family do on the weekends? I would like to thank you for the benefits you provide to me, my family and community. I bid you a fond farewell.

Sincerely,

Jerson Gabriel Gonzalez Rodriguez

Jerson will return to school in the fall where his favorite subjects are math and gym. He walks to school which is 1.5 km from his home. He wants to be a professional athlete. Our sponsorship is \$456 per year. Money is used to buy school supplies, clothing, and anti-parasitic, anti-louse medicine, Also training on preventative health care personal hygiene is provided. We also sent a \$60 gift for Jerson and his family this past Christmas, 2014. We can continue to sponsor Jerson until he is 18, provided he stays in school.

W.E.C.S.S.O. has run operating a <u>www.facebook.com</u> website since last year with some success. We presently have over 320 followers, many players, family and friends. Facebook is a fun and casual means of sharing photos and memories and at the same time promoting our league. Shows others the fun side of the game showing anyone regardless of ability can participate at their own level.

I would encourage everyone to visit our site by logging on to www.wecsso.com and clicking on the "Facebook" link on the right hand side. Once there you are welcome to scroll through the hundreds of photos. Then you can become friends with WECSSO and receive pictures and updates.

At this time most, pictures are from the "Blue Division" I am asking for someone from the "Red" or "Green" division to take some random photos, perhaps and wife or non playing person. These pictures then can be forwarded and then posted. Perhaps it may be easier to put them on a USB jump drive and forward that to myself and have extra drives that I could gladly loan out. I am hoping to hear from someone in this regard.

Len Dupuis

LEAGUE RULES

During the winter months, the elected slo-pitch executive meets on a regular basis to plan for the upcoming season. One of the main items that we discuss is the rules of our league. Believe it or not, we do listen to the feedback that we receive from players throughout the year in regards to our present rules or rules that we should consider implementing for our league. We do care about the views and thoughts of our players. We may not agree but we do listen and discuss their ideas at our meetings.

The slo-pitch executive can modify, change or introduce new rules that they feel would be for the BETTERMENT OF THE LEAGUE. Every rule that is discussed is voted on by the members of the committee who have been elected by you and who represent you at the meetings. The members may not agree personally with a new rule or change in a rule but will accept the will of the majority.

We, as an executive, do not expect every player to be in favor of our rules but we do expect them to follow them without complaining all the time. We realize that some of our rules are contrary to conventional baseball rules-so what- our rules are for the betterment of our league as a whole. It is very frustrating to me and other players as well, to hear the same player(s) complaining constantly about this rule or that rule. These players should accept the fact that the rule exists, stop complaining or find another league to play in. We want to encourage players to play in our league but if they cannot accept our rules, we do not want to listen to their constant whining.

Let's look at some of the rules that we have and why we have them:

- a) Pitching screen- with the bats and balls being used today, the pitcher is at risk of possible serious injury by a batted ball. The answer was the implementation of a pitching screen that protects the pitcher by a batted ball. A pitcher may feel that he is more than capable of fielding his position and does not need the protection of a screen. He may be right but it just takes one instance of not being able to field a ball hit at him and as a result suffers a serious injury. We do not want that to happen to any of our pitchers-thus the use of a pitching screen.
- b) 70 foot bases- bases were extended by five feet a few years ago- once again it was for the protection of our players-especially our infielders. The infielders were at risk of injury once again due to the bats and balls being used. To alleviate this risk, it was decided to put the bases further back, thus the infielders, especially at 3rd, would be further back and hopefully be able to react more quickly to a batted ball. Even today some infielders are taking to wearing face masks for protection. They may look silly and take a lot of ribbing from fellow players but in my mind, are been very smart and pro-active.
- c) 175 outfield line- this rule was put in to help the hitters in our league who can no longer hit a long ball but could still hit but not for distance. These players were becoming frustrated by the fact that they would hit the ball but the outfielder, situated very close to the infield, was able to catch it. Our league is for the enjoyment of all players. A weaker hitter has very little chance of getting a hit with the outfielders so close. The solution-175 foot line- Anyone playing the outfield must be behind this line at the time of the pitch and until the ball is contacted. With this rule, every player now has the possibility of getting a hit, whereas before his chances were slim and none, and none has left town. I am sure that a weaker hitter appreciates this rule. Just an aside- in a game that I was playing, we lost due to the fact that the weaker hitters on the opposing team got key hits, which in the past would have been caught easily by the outfielders playing in close to the infield.
- d) Bats- the quality of bats is ever changing. Probably this piece of equipment has impacted the game of slo-pitch more than any other. The ball, at times, comes off the bat very quickly and with tremendous velocity. Players on defence need to be very aware of the hit ball at all times. As a league, we ban certain bats because of our concern for the safety of our players. To allow any bat to be used would be negligence on our part and unfair to our players.

Cont'd on next page

e) Intentional walk rule- During the winter meetings it was brought to our attention that some players were being unfairly intentionally walked during the season and more so in the playoffs. We realized that intentional walks was a strategy used in baseball for obvious reasons but we felt that in our league it was unfair to certain ball players who come to the game to hit, not to be intentionally walked more so than others. These players were being penalized because they are very good hitters. After much discussion we came up with a rule in regards to intentional walks as to minimize the number of times a player can be intentionally walked in a game. Our first attempt to come up with how the rule would be administered was, to say the least, not well accepted. The slopitch executive listened to the players' concerns and came up with an alternate way to enforce the rule. I think that we now have a rule that some baseball purists do not agree with but hopefully they can see the value of such a rule in our league.

These are just a few rules of our league that I have highlighted. There are other rules and rules that may only apply to certain divisions of our league that are also contrary to traditional baseball rules. Once again these rules are for the benefit of all the players. The slo-pitch executive is always looking for ways to improve our league, be it in the rules or some other aspects of our league.

Ron Ottogalli

A DIVISION

Once again I return to the league as Convenor with my trusty sidekick, John Goz, as my co-convenor. When it comes to handling problems, he is he good cop, I am the bad cop. He is the voice of reason and has calm demeanour. My demeanour would not be described as calm. His approach seems to work the best so in the future I will try to emulate his behaviour in the handling of problems. Right!!!!!

The A division this year has only four teams. Each team started with 14 players per team. However to this number is ever changing, mainly due to injuries. We have a few players who spare for us and will make every effort to play when asked to fill in at various times. In addition, we also have a number of players in the B division that will play in the A division if needed. On behalf of the A Division I would like to thank those players who have agreed to play in the A division when needed. We have had to use players from both lists (spare and B division) more times than expected but it has all worked out so far as to having enough players to play any given game. We have added a few more players since the season started and hopefully this will alleviate the need for call ups. Time will tell.

The managers this year are:

- a) Leisures- Geoff McKay, Assistant-Ron Ottogalli
- b) Dinosaurs- Jack Bump-Assistant-Ray Hicks
- c) Cavemen-Ken Dafoe-Assistant-Hector Marinacci
- d) Vikings-Mike Dimaio-Assistant-Bernie Decaire

Ron Ottogalli

I have been sending our standings to the Windsor Star weekly but they have yet to appear. I guess the star puts more value in listing non local sporting events and standings instead of local sporting events and standings Look at the SCOREBOARD section of the Star and you will notice these non local events included on a regular basis: CYCLING-UCI World Tour and results, TENNIS-ATP/WTA tour and results, Major League Soccer-standings, SOCCER-FIFA-Women's World Cup-Under 20 World Cup-schedules and results, 2018 World Cup Qualifying-schedule and results, CONMEBOL- (whatever this is) -schedules and scores-UEFA-Euro 2016 qualifying- schedule and results-GOLF-PGA, LGP, Champions Tour, European Tour, Web.com Tour- I think you get my message- events that many could care less about or do not even know about and yet we do not see local standings of any leagues, including ours, on this SCOREBOARD page of the Star. If you want to see our standings please go to our website-wecsso.com- e-mailing the standings to the Star is pointless.

Ron Ottogalli

In Remembrance

As an organization it is important to acknowledge our members in all areas of the organization, be it players, umpires, managers, committee members and deceased members. This is the reason we remember all of our deceased members and celebrate the lives of the members who passed away this past year. The organization is trying to form a group of members who would act as honour guards at funerals. We have done so in the past and it has always been appreciated by the families of the deceased member. The only problem is it is a hit and miss experience either we don't get the news of the death in time or we miss it altogether.

The committee would like to set up a means of communication that will help in being prepared for the unfortunate death of a member. If someone knows of a member who has died please let us know as soon as possible in order to get prepared for the possible use of an honour guard at the funeral. A call to any member of the executive would be great.

Remembrance Day is scheduled for Saturday August 15th at 10 AM near the fountain at the foot of Ouellette Ave. Please attend if you can and use this opportunity to celebrate the life of a teammate who has passed away. We have the family of the deceased unveil a stone that is inscribed with the name and number of the deceased. We will be celebrating 8 members this year.

Bill Vankoughnett	08-14	Dave Bohonko	09-14
John Parr	09-14	Ron Vileneuve	10-14
Cliff Rawson	11-14	Louis Deschamps	12-14
Steve Brnardic	02-15	Clare Menighini	05-15

Bob Parent

Is there anyone out there interested in learning more about the Bible? You may have gone to church for many years or you may just be interested in discussing, with others, what the Bible has to say about certain topics. The Bible has many answers for the problems of the world today. As we get together, we can enjoy a coffee or some other drink of choice and munch on a few goodies at the same time. If you are interested in such an informal get-together, please let me know and we can work on organizing such a gathering. Once I find out what kind of interest there is, we can then come up with a time and place for our meetings and we can discuss how often we would like to meet. Please email me at "phildiane@hotmail.com". Please use the title "Bible Study" in your email. If it comes to me with just your name and I am not familiar with who you are, I may not open the email. In our world today, it's always good to play it safe.

Phil

11 TH Annual Lou Dupuis Memorial Charity Bowling - Tom Bois

Our annual Charity Bowling event was held on April 12, at Rev's Bowlero Bowling Center; and was very well attended with 174 bowlers, who came out to help WECSSO raise more funds for the youth activities that we support. Many bowlers commented on the fun they had and many went home with several door prizes that were donated by numerous businesses as well as several generous individuals.

Our committee managed to procure most of the door prizes for our raffle during the months leading up to the event and it all came together and went off without a hitch. The committee members and volunteers were: MaryAnn and Brian Adlam, Brenda, Meri and Tom Bois, Glen Bondy, George and Nicki Brooks, Marg Cartier, Betty Cheswick, Mike Desjardins, Wayne Henderson, Geoff Mc Kay, Marie Martin, Ron Ottogalli, Bob Parent, Gary Poole, John Post and Nick Stein. Thanks to all of their hard work we raised \$4880.00 to add to our 11 year total of \$65000.

The proceeds were distributed to the following: Windsor Police Community Services, Sandwich Teen Action Group, Forest Glade Baseball, Riverside Floor Hockey, Forest Glade Optimist Youth Programs, and WEC Special Stars Soccer League. Many thanks go out to our supporters who generously donated the door prizes or donated funds so we could generate the proceeds for these worthy youth programs.

Thank you for your donations: Canadian Auto Stores, Krazy Kellys, Moose Lodge, Windsor Police, Rev's Bowling Center, FG Optimist Club, FG Baseball, Riverside Floor Hockey, Provincial Chrysler, On the Green, Casino Windsor, Unifor Local 444, Chrymoto Club, Caboto Club, Jakes Joint, Golf Town, Gus Revenburg, Rock Bottom Grill, Arby's, State Farm Insurance (Glen Bondy), and Motor City Community Credit Union (Becky Langlois). Also several individuals donated as well; Brenda Bois, Darlene and Ron Beaudet, Joe and Loretta Brennan, Lido Sandre, Ron Ottogalli, Andrea Bois – Supic and Ron Renaud.

You can view pictures on the WECSSO website or go to www.loudupuisbowlingfundraiser.blogspot.ca.

Pictured below is a presentation of a cheque for \$500.00 from Motor City Community Credit Union staff members to WECSSO president Brian Adlam and Tom Bois.



Here are the names and phone numbers of contact people for each of our activities:

WECSSO: Brian Adlam - 735- 5438

WRSA: Gerry Mayea - 519-739-2283

WECSSO NEWSLETTER: Tom Bois - 519-735-3922 email - thomasb@mnsi.net

SLO-PITCH: Rick Anderson – 519-734-0173

VOLLEYBALL MEN: John Barron - 519-735-5236

VOLLEYBALL WOMEN: Carol Malewicz 519-990 - 8709

BEST SELLER BOOKS - Phil Ochs 519-726-6974

WEBSITE -www.wecsso.com / Carla Hicks - info@wecsso.com

Member Discount List:

Bring your membership card.

Restaurants:

Legends Diner - 12150 Tecumseh Rd. E., Tecumseh (10%) Mon - Friday

The Whistling Kettle - 11700 County Rd. 42 - 15%

Sports Equipment:

Nantais Source for Sports - 2020 Tecumseh Rd. W. (no GST/PST)

Bob Reaume Sports - 4275 Tecumseh Rd. E. (no GST/PST)

The Trophy Boys - 1540 McDougall (20%)



Organ and Blood Donations

I would like to remind all of our members and their families and friends that there is a real need for us to think about the over whelming need for individuals and to consider donating our organs and our blood to help others. Sometimes we need a wakeup call.

Unfortunately our family experienced this first hand and we lost our 9 month old granddaughter, Kylee Grace Cooper – Bois; due to Liver failure. She required a Liver transplant and unfortunately died two days before her scheduled transplant from a LIVE Donor. There are many children and adults in need of organ transplants which are waiting on lists throughout our area and across Ontario and Canada. Many are waiting for a Kidney, or a Liver and are critical. You can sign up to be a donor online through the Trillium Gift of Life. The website is https://beadonor.ca. Tom Awad has experienced a Liver transplant and can provide you with firsthand knowledge of what it means to be the recipient. Other organs are also needed as well.

One organ donor can save the up to eight lives.

Blood Donations are also very important to help others. In the efforts of medical staff, my granddaughter received several blood transfusions in the attempt to save her life and the Canadian Blood services is in dire need of donors to donate their blood to help others live, right now. You can donate every 56 days and many of our members already give, but several do not or cannot but we can encourage our family and friends to do so. It is easy to book an appointment by calling 1-888-2 DONATE or online at www.blood.ca. Our local location at 3909 Grand Marais RD E, is open 5 days a week, Tuesday through Saturday at various times. Their slogan is, "it is in you to Give". We had two blood drives in the last two weeks and it is very easy to give and much more is needed. Please give so others may live. If you care to give under her name or number INH052198, and thank you.

I had not given in several years and regret not doing so to help others.





Donate bloo	id at 3909 Grani	d Marais Road East
Tuesday	3:00 - 7:00	
Wednesday	3:00 - 7:00	Canadian Blood Services it's in you to give
Thursday	11:30 - 7:30	
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		Book your appointment
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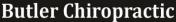


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