

**P.G. Pony Baseball/Softball  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
January 31, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m., Michele Amader presiding.

**Present:** Michele Amader, Nan Johnston, Randy Karasek, Sam Buttrey, Tom Heebink, David Book, Greg Fife, Bernadette Villarreal, Jim Lowell, Tony Payan, Nancy Thompson, Don Mothershead, Nick Hertel, Bryan Simmons, Rich Russo, Debbi Pantorola, Jeff Odell, Rick Rodewald, Heidi Payan

Excused absences: Marcia Cody, Craig Bell, Luann Moran

**I: President's Report:** Vicki Lynch from Eclectic Embroidery in Monterey made a brief presentation to the board. Her shop embroiders (or silkscreens) items like towels, blankets, and hats. This would be for fund-raising items, rather than uniforms. Some sample prices were discussed. Only for fund-raising items.

Michele reported on her attendance at the Pony League Presidents' Meeting. Points covered there included these:

- Two teams have been added to the Bronco World Series (WS): one from Mexico and one from Northern California. It will start Tuesday instead of Thursday and provide a four-game guarantee. The dates will be August 5-12. Attendance will stay at \$8/day for adults; kids under 14 \$4; kids under 5, free. PONY has partnered with Josten's so present and past participants in the Bronco WS can buy rings.
- Other tournament dates include these: Mustang Zone, Chino Hills, CA, July 30; Mustang WS Irving, Texas. Aug 6-9; Pony Regional Campbell CA (date TBD); Pony Zone, Fullerton, Jul 26-30; Pony WS, Chino Hills, CA Aug 1-4.
- Shetland is now officially "6 and under" instead of 5-6, so 4-year olds can play. Same cut-off date as before. Our league will accept 4-year olds. (PONY is instituting combined Colt/Palomino combo team for interested communities, but that's not relevant to P.G.)
- A lot of travel ball teams specify age limits in the style of "14 and under." PONY is thinking of doing this next year (which will change the longstanding "no playing up" policy.) Board members are asked to submit their opinions on that to Michele and she will submit them to the organization. She asked that this be done by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Sam volunteered to collect and edit any submissions. There was some discussion about insurance issues.
- By April, every league has to register its teams with the organization. This year we can do it on-line. On-line registration will be mandatory in 2009.

- The PONY web site pony.org now contains a link to our site.
- There are no local boundary changes for this year. Paso Robles is now in our region.
- PONY all-star pins are going to start changing every year.

Michele also asked that if anyone knows umpires who want to get qualified for the World Series, they should present themselves. They will go through Jim Edwards and get approved by Pony.

**Manager Selection Committee:** The committee (made up of the Baseball and Softball Directors, the Vice-President, League Reps, and a few other members) met yesterday to go over applications for manager positions. They forwarded the following nominations to the board:

Shetland (90 players) : Bob DiStefano, Richard Llantero, John Schumacher, Joe Potter, Brian Wood, Jim Becklenberg, Neil MacLaren, Craig Bell. All were approved.

Pinto (45): Bill Sindell, Bob Vogelpohl, David Jones. All were approved. Some names mentioned as potentials.

Mustang (51): Robert Boerner (with pre-determined assistant Bret Boatman), Dan Bursch (Steve Thompson), Sam Buttrey (Tom Wagner), Greg Fife (Carlos Cuellar), Joel Woods (Brook Sebok). The final volunteer, Andy Dalhamer, will go where his son is drafted. All were approved.

Bronco (38): David Book, Jerry Chyo, Mark Clemens (with predermined assistant Jim Lowell), Joe Moses. Currently unassigned assistants are Brian Wood, Rob Kerchner, Kevin Sand, Andy Miller, and Sean Stade All were approved

Pony (22): Randy Karasek and Steve Minafo. Randy would like to stop adding players once the number of enrollments reaches 24, with the understanding that players playing high school baseball may sign up (but not play until the high school season has completed). A motion to close entry to the Pony division, with this proviso, carried by unanimous voice vote. The two managers were also approved.

Pre-Rookies (26) Stacy Consiglio and Jim Courtney. This division has ten players on the field and continuous batting, so two teams will work. Assistants are Pete Huller, Paul Hughes, and Joe Merenda. All were approved.

Rookies (20): Jim Lowell. Approved with unusual vim.

Minors (27): Dave Simonson, Martin Sublett. There was some discussion about numbers here, since 27 is too many for two teams and not enough for three. One suggestion was to move a few players to Majors, which is short. No decision on this will be made, pending

cuts from the high school team that will affect Majors. Assistant coaches are Kim Donlon and Craig Bell. All were approved.

Majors (19): Sal Lucido and Rick Rodewald. Both approved.

**II. Vice-President's Report:** Nancy Thompson had nothing to add.

**III. Baseball director:** David Book opened discussion with the Coaches' clinic. At an earlier meeting Tony Payan had proposed a meeting primarily for the children, with the coaches trailing along. There might be a physical therapist demonstrating stretches and so on, together with throwing mechanics from the mound and from the outfield. The suggested price would be about \$20 per child kid for 2-3 hours. We'd like to have it close to first week of practice, and to do it in PG. Details will follow.

Rich suggested having Tony talk to the coaches about teaching real stretching.

Scholarship process: David reports that someone needs help. The plan is that requests for scholarship assistance should go through the president.

David thanked Bernadette for her hard work on scheduling. Through Pete's help last year we were able to use one of the fields at DLI and while this was a good option we would like to stay closer to home.

Coaches are required to have NYSCA cards. David asked that reps make sure that every coach has it.

Sponsor letters go out this week. We have some but not enough.

Uniforms: This year we made a real effort to formalize the process of purchasing uniforms. David put together a Request for Proposal and sent it on to Cages and also Central Coast Silkscreen. The numbers that came back favored Cages.

A few months back we got an e-mail from Jim Maxon from Monterey Pony. At that time they were interested in merging Bronco operations to some extent. It's not clear where that stands even now. Monterey will be entering the inter-city this year, it seems.

David raised the issue of field prep, in the face of changes at the Recreation Department. Don Mothershead remains the contact for the fields. Don noted that Saturdays will now be a problem for field prep. The "city guy" will continue to be available for field prep Monday through Friday at the \$30/field rate. Don doesn't object to us giving the money to some other party, as long as we think about city liability etc.

David needs dates for umpires' clinic (which awaits schedule) and field prep date (which was set at 23 Feb). The tentative date for Tony Payan's clinic is Sunday Feb 24 (at P.G. Muni).

**IV. Concessions Coordinator:** Nancy Thompson reported for Luann Moran. As promised, Kazner Extermination did the extermination job at George Washington (GW) for free. Sam will write the thank you note. Concessionaires (including Nancy) will be cleaning up the GW area this Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 9:15 a.m.

In response to Don's question, Nancy reports that Muni has been almost all cleaned out and its contents put into Arnett Park. Don now has access to Muni.

**V. Equipment Director:** Jeff Odell reports that he and Greg Fife will be putting equipment bags together this weekend. Jeff has now bought all the baseballs and softballs. Since we need two more Shetland teams than planned, we may need some more equipment (including tees). He'll take care of that.

We are in the process of doing the Pacific Oaks field for the \$5,000 approved by board e-mail vote. We will also buy cinders for Forest Grove and Robert Down (which will probably arrive first).

PG High School is interested in replacing the netting for the batting cages down at the JV field. These cost something on the order of \$500-\$900 apiece. The – the HS – is hoping that we would contribute by buying, maybe, one of them. Jeff's opinion is that while it feels that we're always being asked to do something, this might be an expense that helps our relationship with the school. We want to make sure that their program understands what we will have done for them. The Board will vote when more information becomes available.

**VI. City Liaison:** Don M. reported that Caledonia Park, will, as usual, not be available Mondays because of youth soccer. He had already covered the problem with Saturday field preps. He asked whether there was a need for the Rec Department to host the NYSCA class (the answer: no). What about ASA (for softball managers)? Answer: the CCS people (via softball director) will ensure that a class gets set up. Michele volunteered to run a scorekeeper's clinic.

**VI. League Representatives:**

**Shetland:** Bob DiStephano asked whether field prep is an issue for Shetland. Don replied that for tee-ball and, maybe, Pinto, we can do the prep Friday night. Bob is willing to take that on and arrange for managers to do it.

**Pinto:** There is no rep, although one name has been floated. Crystal noted that there will be two days of Rocket Camp at Robert Down, but there was general agreement that there was enough room so that the practice will be able to run simultaneously.

**Mustang:** Crystal Hawes reported. The Mustang draft is this Monday. Don has room, so it can take place at the PGCC. Crystal will notify managers and confirm with Randy and David. The times will be 7:00 for Mustang, 8:30 for Bronco.

**Pony:** Tom Heebink has notified Pony Managers and all seems well there.

There was general discussion about issues with the numbers of Minors players. Tryouts are scheduled for this weekend at GW. Even though left field is wet, the field is playable.

**VII. Other business:** No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** February 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel E. Buttrey  
Secretary