



The Secretariat
Brindlee Mountain Rotisserie Baseball Association
P.O. Box 602, Arab, Alabama 35016
www.bmrba.com



February 6, 2002

Winter Meeting

Again, in spite of the NFL playoffs, we held our annual Winter Meeting at the Peking Restaurant in Arab last Sunday, January 27. The turnout was typical and a quorum was present. Owners of 15 franchises attended. They were John York, Phil Laney, Keith Smith, Keith Poole, Olen McClendon, Larry Holder, Chris Leak, Ron Jordan, Jim Garner, Jack Cheek, Steve Parker, and Yours Truly.

There was plenty of brisk discussion on a number of topics, including, but not limited to the following items of general interest.

Season Schedule

With MLB Opening Day scheduled for April 1, it was agreed to set the annual Roster Freeze for Sunday, March 24, at 12:00 Noon. Auctions will be held on Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM, in the American League, while the NL Auction will be on Sunday, April 7, 10:00 AM. This year our Auctions will be held at the Arab Recreation Center on Main Street, across from City Hall.

Stat Software

As we have done for several years now, the Owners agreed to renew our user license for Grand Slam® from Centerfield Software to use in updating our weekly stats. The cost is still \$175 for the two leagues and this again will be paid directly from the treasury, without additional cost to the Owners.

Website

Owners agreed to keep its website hosting service with Computer Renaissance for another year and that it should again be paid directly from our funds, without additional cost to Owners. The cost, \$195 for the year, represents a significant savings over last year's \$360. There is no site "development" cost this year.

Rule Proposals

There were, as usual, a number of these, but only a few minor changes were implemented for the coming season. The following proposals were adopted. I'll summarize them as concisely as I can.

1. *Modify Article 9.3.3* to include the words "or released" to clean up the language, closing an unintended loophole in the rules. This change was approved unanimously. The Article shall now read,
"Players under a Guaranteed Long-term Contract may not be waived or released, even in the final year of that contract."
2. *Modify Article 9.2.1.2* (Contiguous Team Trading Period) to allow only one (1) trade between contiguous teams during this period. The effect is to prevent contiguous teams from trading repeatedly during the month of August. This change was also approved unanimously. The Article shall now read,
"After midnight, July 31, and continuing until midnight, August 31, trades may be conducted only between teams which are contiguous (i.e., adjacent to each other) in the most recent standings. However, contiguous teams may conduct only one such trade

during the Contiguous Team Trading Period. Such trades must be reported no later than September 1 at 12:00 noon.”

3. *Modify Article 3.4* (Payment Requirements) to require full payment of fees by Auction Day, even if some portion (but no more than ½) is paid with a check post-dated June 1. Note that the existing enforcement provisions are unchanged, although Owners agreed unanimously that these would be enforced strictly. The only substantive changes are 1) the June 1 date and 2) emphasis on “across-the-board” enforcement. The Article shall now read,

“The Franchise Fee is due and payable by Auction Day. However, at least ½ the Franchise Fee must be paid no later than Auction Day and any remainder (up to ½ the Franchise Fee) must also be paid no later than Auction Day with a check post-dated no later than June 1 of the current season.

All payments shall be made payable to “BMRBA” and submitted to the Treasurer or his designate. Teams who fail to meet these payment requirements by Auction Day shall be subject to strict enforcement of the following provisions:

Teams who have failed to meet this financial obligation shall be prohibited from making transactions between Auction Day and such time as the balance is satisfied. Furthermore, in the event a team’s Franchise Fee is not paid in full by July 31, such team shall be dropped to last place in each of the statistical categories until such time as the outstanding fees are paid in full.”

The following proposals were also discussed, but each was rejected by the Owners.

4. Rejected a proposal to compensate a team’s “free agent budget” (FAAB) for the loss of a player traded to the other league during the regular season. The discussion was brisk, but the final tally found only 5 in favor, while 10 were opposed.
5. Rejected a proposal to raise the annual trade limit to 21 players, providing no more than 15 occur during the regular season. Again, there was plenty of talk, but the idea went down in flames by a 4-11 count.
6. Rejected a proposal to allow teams to carry up to 3 unused trades from one season to the next. This notion also came up short – barely – in a 7-7 vote, with one abstention.

Other News

Not much more to report, except the usual trades and updated rosters through February 5. These have also been posted to the website. If anyone gets the wild urge to go ahead and pay some fees, please make checks payable to “**BMRBA**” and send to our new Treasurer:

Olen McClendon
307 Bluffview Drive
Arab AL 35016

If you have questions or comments regarding any or all of the above, please let me hear from you soon.

See y’all in April

Rhett Leak
Secretary, BMRBA