

2019 Chico Central Little League

ANNUAL REPORT

Chico Central Little League (CCLL) is in sound financial shape, and with continued prudent board management, should remain so well into the future. The board reviews league finances at each board meeting, and the annual treasurer's report indicates a healthy league.

A total of 379 children played baseball in CCLL this season. This is slightly below last year's total, and is a significantly greater number of players than the league had five years ago. Those 379 players were distributed among 34 teams, with baseball ages ranging from 4 to 14. Each division had the following number of teams:

- T-Ball – 6 teams
- Farm – 8 teams
- AA Minors – 5 teams
- AAA Minors – 8 teams
- Majors – 6 Teams
- Juniors – 1 team

The first priority for the board is to provide an excellent baseball experience for every player that joins the league. To that end, we have made some important improvements over the last two years in our facilities. We also spend monies on other areas, detailed below. Finally, this report addresses the state of volunteerism in the league.

Infrastructure Improvements

Over the past several seasons, the board made a commitment to invest in the infrastructure and equipment needs of the league. Some of those improvements are as follows:

- New scoreboard at Elks. The league's original scoreboard had significant electrical issues, and a scoreboard is a requirement for post-season tournaments. The new scoreboard uses significantly less electricity, and uses LED light technology. It also provides pitch count for both teams, and with a donation from PCM, we have additional scoreboard space for advertising and listing league championships. This year we entered a multi-year advertising partnership with Bigfoot Carpet. We also upgraded our electrical system to take advantage of the efficient scoreboard.
- Our second baseball field at Neal Dow Elementary. Last year, the board elected to construct a second field at Neal Dow Elementary, with the blessing of both the school administration, as well as Chico Unified School District's approval. This allows all of the CCLL Farm division activities to occur on the two fields adjacent to one another at Neal Dow Elementary. Upkeep was more of a challenge, due to construction at Neal Dow.

- Batting Cage at Elks. The batting cage initially had a rock floor. Several years ago, we built a plywood deck over the rocks, but the plywood did not stand up to the wear and tear, so this year we poured a concrete floor for the batting cage, and covered the concrete with synthetic turf. In addition, a soft toss/tee station was installed in the rear of the cage.
- Pitching Machines for each Farm Division team. Previously, the league stored pitching machines at several league locations, so that they were available for practices and games at those field. Due to the number of teams in the Farm Division over the past several years, the availability of practice time on Farm fields was limited, so to encourage managers to use alternate sites for practices, while still being able to use “game time” equipment, each manager received a pitching machine.
- Mower and Golf Cart. Both were upgraded/retrofitted recently, so that the field is well groomed and maintained. In addition, the league purchased a Reel Mower to closely cut and groom the infield at Elks.
- Rebuilt Mower Shed at Elks. We rebuild the Mower Shed (3B side) at Elks Field and installed a rollup door (as opposed to the old sliding door). The rebuild made the structure stronger and more secure. Donations from Meeks Lumber, Home Depot, and Payless Building Supply kept the costs to a minimum, and league parent Erik Jones of Jones construction donated his labor to rebuild the shed.
- New grass mix at Elks Field. During the off-season, we aerated, seeded, and grew a new grass mix at Elks to increase the duration of green grass during the regular season. Sean Ortega, a parent volunteer, was instrumental in getting the field prepped, seeded, and in the excellent condition that we enjoyed this season. We also upgraded our sprinkler system.
- Infield Dirt at Multiple Fields. Infield mix has been added to Brooks, Neal Dow, Elks, the Pleasant Valley High School JV Field (where Seniors play) and Marigold over the last few years. This is necessary to replenish the infield mix we lose each year to erosion and the wind in our hot summers.
- New Fencing and Crusher Dust. Crusher dust was laid down at Wymore and Elks fields. New fencing was placed at Elks, and a new backstop at Wymore.

League Costs

Each season the league spends money on a set of fixed costs. We rent two fields from CARD (Brooks and Wildwood), and pay rent at Elks Lodge. We are also responsible for upkeep at Neal

Dow. We also purchase a wide variety of supplies, including chalk, chalk machines (when needed), baseballs (game and practice), bats, catcher's gear, manager bags, hitting tees, umpire equipment, hoses, rakes, drags, etc. This season in an effort to reduce costs, we switched our uniform supplier to one with a less expensive hat/shirt combination. We also had to spend additional funds to ensure that each team has bats that are in compliance with the new regulations.

Prior to the start of the season 2017, the CCLL board applied for a Little League International "Grow the Game" grant to make significant improvements (including the purchase of a new Elks Field scoreboard). Due to the high volume of grant applications, the league still has not heard the final outcome of that grant application.

Volunteers

Our most important asset, as a league, are you – the volunteers. CCLL teams only play because parents, grandparents, other relatives, and community members step up to make the league work. Each team has a manager, and typically several assistant coaches, who give countless hours to work with our youth on baseball fundamentals, as well as sportsmanship and fair play. Each team relies on a team parent to help organize team activities. In the upper divisions, parents act as scorekeepers and pitch counters. Many of you have worked a shift in the snack bar, helped chalk a field, did pre-season field clean-up, or helped sell raffle tickets. The CCLL board also puts in many hours behind the scenes, making sure the league is up and running each season.

As this report details, the state of Chico Central Little League is strong. Finances are healthy, our number of players is high, and we have fantastic volunteers throughout the league. I look forward to more of the same in the 2020 season.

Submitted by: Allen Lee, President CCLL, 6/1/19