

Southeast Ontario Soccer Association

AGM meeting

Sunday November 24, 2013

Minutes

Roll Call (done by Joanie Sagriff) indicating proxy votes where applicable

1. Introduction of SOSA Board and Officers
Noted by Joanie Sagriff – we have quorum
2. Period of Remembrance
Aaron Stevenson – Brockville Youth S.C. U18 House League
3. Introduction of Guests
Lisa Beatty – Executive Director, OSA
4. Minutes of 2012 Annual General Meeting
Motion to approve Minutes of 2012 AGM made by Kevin Fox; 2nd by Greg Horton
Motion Carried
5. Minutes of March 3rd 2013 Special General Meeting
Motion to approve Minutes of March 3rd 2013 SGM made by Hugh Daechsel; 2nd by David Crabb
Motion Carried
6. Auditors for 2013-2014
Motion to approve Davies & Wyngaarden Chartered Accountants as Auditors for 2013-2014
fiscal year made by Wayne Buller; 2nd by Dave McGilvray
Motion carried
7. Officers Reports
President's Report – as written. Mark Ethier added that the focus for this past year and going forward is to get out to Clubs, to raise the profile of soccer in our District.

Question from the floor.

Is there still a possibility of a dome opening at John Machin fields?

Answer: The field at John Machin was prepared in case Westbrook Dome didn't go ahead. The City does not want to operate a dome facility. Currently, they are waiting to see if Westbrook Dome is going to run at capacity. Then if they think there is enough demand to warrant another indoor facility, they could find an operator and go ahead with facility at John Machin.

District Referee Coordinator Report – as written.

Technical Director Report - as written. Mark Ethier added that the focus is on players, what do they need to make them better?

TD will be offering workshops to house league coaches, going out to Clubs.

Questions from the floor.

How many people attended the Pre B license course? And were they all Kingston people?

Answer: 25 people attended, and no, they weren't all from Kingston. There were some from Belleville and Quinte West as well.

Who is on Technical Advisory Committee? And how often do they meet?

Answer: Jim Brown, Ian Callaghan, Carlo Cannovan, Chris Eveleigh. They meet approximately every three months.

Who is responsible for making contact, Clubs and coaches contacting Jim, or Jim contacting Clubs?

Answer: Communication can, and should, go both ways. Jim is contacting Clubs, but is also open to hearing from coaches and Clubs that are looking for assistance.

8. Auditor's Report - Wayne Buller summarized the report, and the breakdown of expenditures and revenues.

There is a deficit of approximately \$61,954. There were a few reasons for this, including extra costs for setting up new office that was not budgeted for. There was a decrease in the number of players for outdoor season. This led to about \$34,000 less in revenue, but there were also less costs, with fewer players registered to OSA, etc. But this led to between \$15-18,000 loss.

Questions from the floor.

What players are included in that, just youth?

Answer: all players, adults, youth, competitive, recreational.

So did not have an increase in players?

Answer: No, had a decline in numbers.

Wayne continued on to say that another shortfall came from the Academy program, should have been revenue neutral, but instead the Academy lost around \$12,000. We are also looking for sponsorship for Academy to help cover costs.

Questions from the floor.

What expenses are included in the Academy?

Answer: Facilities, equipment, salaries.

Does District subsidize the Academy program?

Answer: It shouldn't be. We are aiming for it to be revenue neutral.

Would it be possible to show a specific line item for Academy program, on revenue and on expense side? It isn't good governance to run a deficit, and this would allow members to see what the program brings in, and what it costs.

Answer: Will do that going forward for members to see.

We had a deficit last year, had another one this year, aren't you worried about running deficits?

Answer: Yes, he does worry about it. But would also like it noted that they money that we are in deficit has gone back into soccer, in the District.

Motion to approve the Auditor's Report, made by Hugh Daechsel; 2nd by Kevin Fox
Motion carried

9. SOSA 2013-2014 Budget – Wayne Buller presented the budget and explained some of the numbers. He has adjusted the number of players projected for next year. Fees have been increased for Academy program to reflect higher costs. Numbers include an increase of SOSA membership fee of \$1.00, this will lead to approximately \$12,000 more in revenue. Also included is an increase to the competitive player registration of \$10.00, this will lead to approximately \$10,000 more in revenue. There is also an admin fee charged for SOSA leagues.

Questions from the floor.

I think that raising the competitive fee by \$10.00 is a lot. Bringing in the Technical Director has led to a deficit. Do we need to re-evaluate having a TD for the District? How many players benefit from this position?

Answer: the budget is presented based on costs that the District already has.

Why are we saddling the competitive players with more of the cost?

Answer: there is a \$1 increase in there, across all members. It could be instead a \$2 increase for all members.

In our District, compared to other regions, our fees are disproportionate between competitive and recreational players. This can rebalance the ratio.

The TD should be benefitting everyone, so everyone should be contributing.

Answer: The Board did go back and forth on how to generate the right amount of revenue. We have to balance what will work best for all Clubs, for all members.

Some Clubs have set their fees already for next year, now will have to revisit, or else risk running a deficit at the Club level. What about an increase to Academy fees?

Answer: that has already happened.

Are all competitive players paying more to subsidize Academy program?

Answer: no, competitive players all benefit from having TD in the District. All Clubs, coaches, players, grassroots and competitive, get benefit from TD position.

The TD position shouldn't be in question, but is there another way to structure the fee increase to make it more palatable to Clubs?

Adult leagues do not feel they benefit from TD. We already pay duplicate registration fees for every league we play in.

Can we revisit the TD position, when contract is up in May?

Answer: what we were doing 18 months ago wasn't good enough. All Clubs have taken a step forward with this position. TD is working with referees on assessments; that benefits everyone. All information was gathered when decision was made to hire for TD position. District would move backwards without a TD and Technical Advisory Committee.

We have lots of small Clubs, in a geographically big District. What we had before did not work well for any group.

Do we have a prediction for soccer registration numbers?

Answer: Numbers are slightly down across the province.

Discussion about everyone keeping an open mind and take advantage of what the District, and the TD have to offer. Everyone does benefit from TD, as players improve, grow up, move to adult leagues, and keep playing.

District programs develop individual players, not trying to win games for a certain team or Club, trying to develop players to their potential.

With OPDL and changes coming from OSA, the TD position helps our Clubs and District adapt to new changing priorities.

Jim has been a big help to getting referee assessments and education going for our District.

Lisa Beatty offered a summary, she felt she was hearing a good discussion about community outreach. There are similar challenges at the Provincial level as well. Change takes time, need constant dialogue between groups, Clubs, levels, etc.

Recess

Roll Call (done by Joanie Sagriff) indicating proxy votes where applicable

Noted by Joanie Sagriff – we have quorum

Wayne noted that a three year plan to phase in fee increases has been suggested. We are looking for approximately \$23,000 in revenue.

Motion on the fee schedule as proposed in the package made by Wayne Buller; 2nd by Mark Ethier.

Motion carried

Motion to destroy the ballots made by Greg Horton; 2nd by Bob Machin.

Motion carried

Motion to approve the 2013-2014 budget as proposed made by Wayne Buller; 2nd by Hugh Daechsel.

Motion carried

10. Published Rule – Approval

Youth Clubs

v. A Club must have a recreational league with a minimum of four divisions with each division having a minimum of 48 players in order for that Club to be eligible to register competitive teams. Clubs may affiliate with a recreational Club belonging to SOSA and consisting of the minimum number of Divisions and players, in order to satisfy this requirement.

Motion to pass change to Published Rule as written made by Greg Horton; 2nd by Steve Yaeger.

Motion to put forward a friendly amendment to change the rule to read 44 players made by Savvas Kekkas; 2nd by Paul Dobson

Some discussion and explanation about players being pooled in a division, rather than placed on teams.

Motion carried. Motion is amended.

Question from the floor.

What is the rationale behind this? It could be onerous for small Clubs to meet this requirement.

Answer: This rule is to encourage Clubs to have house league recreational programs, to support their competitive programs.

There are already Clubs in existence that wouldn't meet this, what will happen to them?

Answer: St Lawrence United and Brockville Youth S.C. have an agreement that will be grandfathered.

Motion carried.

11. Elections

Questions from the floor.

When someone resigns a position on the Board, shouldn't that position be up for election?

Answer: When someone resigns, the Clubs in that area are asked if they have members that would be interested in joining the Board.

We have geographical areas on the Board, Director East, etc, shouldn't Board members have to come from that area?

Answer: We can't make any constitutional changes at this AGM. Changes must be proposed and sent out to Clubs within certain time frame.

Elections run by Mark Ethier.

Vice President: John Nador standing. No other nominations were brought forward. John was acclaimed.

Secretary: Chelsea Reynolds standing. No other nominations were brought forward. Chelsea was acclaimed.

East Director: Ryan Gardner nominated. No other nominations were brought forward. Ryan was acclaimed.

West Director: Dave McGilvray standing. No other nominations were brought forward. Dave was acclaimed.

Central Director: Shelley Desarmia standing. No other nominations were brought forward. Shelley was acclaimed.

Senior Director: Bob Machin standing. No other nominations were brought forward. Bob was acclaimed.

12. Other Business

Questions from the floor.

The current voting structure isn't fair to smaller Clubs. Is there a way to change it?

Lisa Beatty answered including information about new Not for Profit Corporation act, coming from province. Will include information about membership rights, what does that mean? Currently, Clubs and Districts all have different constitutions, which makes things challenging. There should be discussion between groups.

Motion made that SOSA set up a committee made up of participating Clubs that would manage the Regional programs in the District made by Savas. No seconder.

Mark Ethier responds that SOSA has started the discussion with Technical directors, Club presidents about District teams, and how those could work.

Why were the U11 girls not included in the Academy program this year, when boys of that age are included?

Answer: The TD felt there weren't enough players at that level to warrant a program for that group.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Phil Benevides; 2nd by Marguerite Heer

Motion carried