

Minutes Prepared by Diana Greenhalgh

Arlington Travel Soccer Club
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2008

Board Members Present: Steve Lent, Alex Palacios, Richard Easby, George Shirley, Greg Beronja; Lisa Cummins, Seamus Hooban

NCSL Representative: Diana Greenhalgh
Director of Coaching: Grant Smith
ASA Technical Director: Bob Bigney

Also attending: Beth Munsch, Bob Herbolosheim, Shomit Mukhejee

President's Report

President, Steve Lent, called the meeting to order at 8:10pm and announced that a quorum was reached. The group considered the minutes prepared from the March Club Council meeting and they were approved.

Financial Structure. Steve discussed developments in the new financial structure that is being implemented July 1st. ASA has hired Carla de la Pava for a four-month period to serve as Transition Director to put together a financial program. Her charge covers four areas: financial integration, registration systems, sponsorships & fundraising, and management review (staffing & governance in ASA). Carla is working with Greg and other team members and they will meet next week.

Arlington Tournament. Steve talked about the Arlington tournament and the level of competition. He felt that some Arlington teams were not well matched in the tournament and had very bad results. He said the club should look at that next time and consider that not all Arlington teams should play in the tournament. There was general discussion about how tournament divisions are structured.

Uniforms. There is an agreement now in place between ASA and Eurosport to serve as the club's uniform provider. Fall 2009 is the date that all ATSC teams will switch to a new club-wide uniform. Some teams may be able to order the new uniforms before the Spring 2009 season. Eurosport will be setting up a web-based Club Store where our teams can log in and order uniforms directly, along with a variety of other items with ATSC logos, etc. The Club will have a Goal Club account so that the club will earn benefits from the sales.

Grant asked whether we could change the ATSC logo. It was discussed and acknowledged that with the new club-wide uniform changes coming, anything can be considered. It was suggested that a contest could be held for a new logo.

For the web site link, Steve suggested that we check out the **BeachFC.com** site to see how the Club Store concept works.

Boys & Girls Commissioners

The new boys commissioner, Alex Palacios, was introduced. There were no reports.

Treasurer's Report

Greg Beronja stated that we have more than \$43,000 in the account—about what we've been carrying. We have not yet received funds from the Arlington tournament, but somewhere between \$30-\$40 thousand are expected. He suggested that because the Club will have a large amount of excess funds that some of the money be used to offset the transitional costs that will be incurred this summer.

Greg also mentioned that the scholarship program may need to be restructured. There was discussion about criteria for eligibility for scholarships (ASA uses full or partial lunch program qualification); whether non-Arlington/Falls Church players should be eligible; the fact that the boys teams receive the overwhelming majority of scholarship money, i.e., the girls teams are subsidizing the boys teams; increasing the amount of money available for scholarships (tournament funds?); how parent's scholarship donations to their child's team would be handled within the new club-wide financial structure.

Richard Easby asked whether there would be a report to the Board from the tournament leader. Steve said yes. Richard mentioned that the head of Alexandria soccer approached him to say that Alexandria is putting in new turf fields and asked whether Arlington would be interested in using those fields for future tournaments. It was noted that with those fields, plus the planned synthetic turf fields at Crystal City, the tournament can really expand.

Boys Player Rep

Seamus asked whether ATSC could set up or post profiles for players on-line. High school age players may benefit from having their profiles available to college coaches. It was noted that there are commercial systems available that do that already, but that they charge a fee. It was suggested that ATSC could talk to Demosphere about connections for such a purpose.

League Rep Reports

ODSL and WAGS did not have reports. The NCSL Rep provided a written report that included the fees for each of the two seasons for the 2008-2009 soccer year (see report below).

It was noted that there were two Arlington incidents reported to the R&D committee (mentioned in the written report) and that the new NCSL R&D Chair is Lula Bauer. There was brief discussion of the incidents.

Diana also stated that NCSL has asked that teams be reminded to pick up their trash after games because litter at fields is a real problem.

NCSL Report:

1. The NCSL Board meeting was held on March 27th. The game schedules were posted that night. Teams were forewarned not to request schedule changes due to coaching conflicts. NCSL will not reschedule games for that reason. Almost 4,400 games are scheduled and 177 coaches have multiple teams. It is inevitable that coaching conflicts will occur.
 2. Only one Arlington team had a carryover sitout from the fall. All other sitouts listed on the web site were cleared up.
 3. I reminded teams to be sure to keep track of yellow and red cards issued to players through the season. Penalties for not observing sitouts are steep. They were also reminded to keep a copy of the signed sitout card before mailing it in. Copies should be kept for a year.
 4. Registration changes were numerous this season, and many were very last-minute. Coaches must communicate with their team managers about possible changes and managers must be proactive in eliciting information from their coaches. Our registrar has been extremely flexible out of concern for the players, but I think we tried her patience a bit over the past 2 weeks.
 5. One Arlington team is being reported to the R&D committee for having a parent act as a side ref without first informing the opponent of the relationship.
 6. One Arlington team has complained about a center referee that was rude, uninformed about the referee payment process, and who wrote on the team's roster on the field. The incident has been reported to NCSL.
 7. The NCSL 2008-2009 budget was approved at the NCSL Board meeting. The fees reflect an increase in the registrar fees, one of the components of the NCSL fee. Fees for the two seasons of the soccer year will be:
 - U9 thru U11 \$345
 - U12 thru U14 \$625
 - U15 thru U16 \$675
 - U17 \$735
 - U19 Fall 08 \$735
 - U19 Spring 09 \$580
- Collection of the fees will be in early-mid June for the fall season.
8. There is a new R&D Chair - Lula Bower. Lula stated that there were over 2,000 cards issued to NCSL players versus 350 to WAGS players. A very large number were issued for profanity. Players need to understand that profanity is not acceptable and can result in

a card. The second most noted offense was playing the player and not the ball.

9. It was requested that coaches and managers make players pick up their trash at fields and take their water bottles, etc., with them. Field litter is a real problem.

10. NCSL is looking for volunteer to serve as the NCSL Representative to the VYSA state-wide body. Interested parties should notify NCSL.

11. A proposal was defeated to make the new U9 team size six players on the field, with 10 players on the roster. For the fall, the team sizes will remain as they are currently.

10. It was PASSED that division ranking structure will not occur until SPRING of U11. In other words, U9, U10, and Fall U11 will be random placements. This will be in effect for current U9 teams. This allows emphasis to remain on player development and non results-oriented play at the younger ages.

When the current U9s reach the fall of U11, the league will begin to track game results (but not post them). Those results will be used to form divisions for their Spring U11 season.

11. Ruth, our VYSA registrar, expressed dismay to me that we have teams dropping players between seasons in order to make room for other players (including U9s). Ruth told me that it is a violation and she wants the Club to notify coaches that it is not allowed.

Richard Easby noted that NCSL is looking for a representative to the VYSA state-wide body and said that it's very beneficial to a club to have representatives on the larger bodies.

Bob Bigney asked Diana whether she brings the Director of Coaching or ATSC President into issues or decisions of a technical nature. She said yes, they are provided information and their guidance is sought. She will invite Grant and Bob to the next NCSL board meeting in June.

Director of Coaching Report

Grant Smith reported that the coaches committee is working on compensation recommendations and per player costs. Coaches will be submitting their credentials to the committee to support salary proposals.

Grant will be working soon on the tryout process.

A question was raised on the policy of "playing up" in age. Beth Munsch said that, at the Club Council meeting, it was stated that the current older teams will be exempt from the Club's policy against permitting players to play up a year. Steve said that teams who wish to roster an underage player must get the approval of the Director of Coaching.

Grant said that, in some cases, it may be the best decision for a player but that it would be looked at from the standpoint of the player's physical, mental, and emotional maturity.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:35pm.