

London & Area Women's Soccer League – Annual General Meeting
Sunday, November 27, 2016
BMO Centre

Present: Ada Edwards, President
Dora Rzeszutek, Vice-President
Rob Headley, Treasurer
Kim Johnson, Secretary
Nelson Rodrigues, Director (E2E)

Regrets: Traci Cummings, Referee Coordinator

Call to Order: 10:30 am

Welcome and Roll Call

Minutes: Adopted – McKay (Sarnia)/Dejesus (Byron)

President's Address: See attached.

Secretary's Report: See attached.

Treasurer's Report: Report adopted – Ellyatt (Germans)/Roberts (Woodstock)
See attached.

Additionally, the Treasurer thanked all the volunteers who worked in soccer – from the EMSA President who was present to the coaches and team representatives in the room.

The Treasurer specifically recognized the hard work of Nelson Rodrigues and Traci Cummings who were especially helpful with the league's transition to E2E. He advised the membership that the Executive has requested some pricing for the upcoming season and would be making a determination in relation to what modules would be required. It was the Executive's hope to keep costs to a minimum.

Unfinished business and correspondence:

Correspondence with the Executive

The Treasurer asked all members who intended to register teams for the 2017 season to forward cheques to him at the address set out on the website. He reminded all that any correspondence was to be sent to the Secretary for distribution to the Executive.

Player Cards

The Treasurer introduced EMSA President, John Dutot, who advised the membership that EMSA was considering moving from the OSA id booklet to a system which required

players to use player cards that were similar to credit cards. EMSA was also considering the mandatory checking of player identification prior to each game. Dutot noted that there may be a financial penalty if player cards were not checked. He also indicated that pictures for the player cards could be taken on a smart phone. Each player's picture would then be saved to their OSA identification number at EMSA. Card checks could be done through a free app that is downloaded to a phone. Each coach would select the players who would be playing in a specific game. The coach from the other team would then check the players present against the roster with pictures on-line. Each card would be valid for 5 years and would cost \$10.00 (\$2.00 for each of the 5 years); each card would display district information to allow for player movement.

Dutot fielded a number of questions about the proposed system. He explained that EMSA would be making enquiries to ensure that the system would fit the needs of the various leagues in the district. He advised that EMSA would be looking in to costs, whether the card system would prevent the use of illegal players, it's ease of use, the particulars of player movement, whether player discipline would be available, whether level of play should be set out on the card, and who would be responsible for ensure the card checks were conducted. Dutot advised that he was attending an OSA meeting to speak to a rep from another region (East District) which uses player cards. He was hopeful that EMSA would know more by the end of December, 2016.

New Business

Coaching Certifications

The President reminded all members that there are changes to coaching requirements for the 2017 season. For instance, even previously trained coaches must have the concussion training.

Over-35 Tournament – New Zealand

The President also advised that the League had received an invitation for Over-35 players to attend a Tournament in New Zealand. She asked that any representatives who were interested should speak to the Marconi coach.

Outstanding Correspondence – Changes to the League Structure

Jurgen Klaus from the German Club contacted the League to discuss how the League could keep 10 teams in the Premier and First Divisions. He addressed the members.

Klaus pointed out that there were more than 60 teams in LAWSL for the 2016 season. Yet, despite the growth of the league, there is always a struggle to attain and maintain 10 teams in the Premier Division. Teams quit because they didn't want to stay in the top division; other teams opted to start over in the Third Division. More recently, we are seeing the same thing happen in the First Division. In both the Premier Division and First Division we only had 8 teams. In the Second Division there are 10 teams. In the Third Division there were 17 teams.

Klaus proposes that the 2 up/2 down relegation system be reviewed with an eye to balancing the divisions. In addition, he asked to membership to consider:

1. Teams that finished 8th in 1st be given the option to remain up rather than move down if that is their wish;
2. Champions move up, even if there is a team in the same division from the same club.
3. Opportunities be provided to U18 or provincial teams to start in the higher divisions rather than starting in the Third Division.

Klaus' point in relation to two teams from the same club being permitted to play within the same Division was also the subject of correspondence from Tony Pileggi, Southend United.

There was discussion amongst the members regarding these points. The team representatives agreed that two teams from the same club could play in the same division as long as they play themselves first to set the roster and confirm who is playing on which team. Additionally, the members proposed a change to the Rules to allow new teams – at the discretion of the Executive – to be permitted to start in the more competitive divisions, recognizing that those who win the right to move up, are given preference.

Elections:

Two positions were up for election:

1. Kim Johnson was re-elected to the position of Secretary (Dave Farrell/Andy Hunter); and
2. Dora Rzeszutek was re-elected to the position of Vice-President (Andy Hunter/Krista Ferguson).

General Discussion:

Removal of Club

A member asked whether the players from a team whose club had been removed from the district would be permitted to transfer to another club within the district. EMSA President John Dutot confirmed that the same club, if it has been removed from the district, cannot be re-introduced. If the team wishes to stay together, they can apply for special status within a league to remain within the same division, but under another club.

Coaching Certification

Concern was raised by some of the members about satisfying the new coaching requirements for the upcoming season. EMSA President John Dutot indicated that the District will likely be running some courses so coaches here have an opportunity to get the appropriate licensing. Dutot also explained that licenses will only be valid for a period of 5 years. He also noted that the Concussion course is available on-line so it is accessible to everyone.

Members expressed concern about the costs of coaching courses, the length of time required to undertake the courses, and concerns with accessibility. Dutot advised that he would take the members concerns back to the Technical Committee.

Masters Division

Bob Howard asked the members whether there was sufficient interest to form a Masters Division. He suggested that, those who have players interested, contact the Executive. He was hopeful that there would be enough players to form possibly 6 teams who could play games during the season. The division would be open to players over 30 years of age.

Meeting Closed: Motion to Adjourn – Dejesus (Byron)/Klaus (Germans)
12:30 pm

/kgj