

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON AND AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE
December 9, 2018
BMO Large Conference Room

Registration
Call to Order

Executive Present:

Present:

Nelson Rodrigues	President
Dora Rzeszutek	Vice-President
Rob Headley	Treasurer
Kim Johnson	Secretary
Traci Cummings	Referee Coordinator
Abbi Lezizidis	Director

Roll Call – Referee Coordinator

Quorum established.

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting: adopted (West End Blues/London United)

President's Address

The President welcomed all members to the AGM. He told the membership that replacing the former President of the League was an impossible task and his learning curve was high; with the assistance of the Executive, the 2018 season was a successful one. The President thanked all those who assisted with making that happen.

The President congratulated the Division and Cup champions; he commented that there seemed to be a high level of competition within most of the divisions. As a board, the Executive strove to ensure the League ran smoothly and that everyone had an enjoyable experience. It was his aim to make the League more attractive to upcoming and interested teams and to bring something new to the League.

To that end, the President introduced the LAWSL Hall of Fame Awards – a means of recognizing persons who have made a contribution to the League or to women's soccer in the area. It was the President's honour to introduce the first inductee, Ada Edwards, a founding member of the League and its long-time President. A plaque was presented to Ms. Edwards, recognizing all the work she has done for the League and her many contributions to women's soccer in the London area.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported no outstanding correspondence to the League and reminded everyone of the importance of maintaining up-to-date contact information for representatives, including email address, phone number and mailing addresses for two persons. If a team representative changes, it is the club/team's responsibility to update the contact information. All League correspondence is forwarded to the representatives identified.

Treasurer/Auditor's Report: adopted (German Canadians/Ingersoll)

See attached Statement of Profit and Loss.

The Treasurer provided a handout to all the members and explained the expenditures set out. There were no questions from the floor.

Unfinished Business and Correspondence

There was no unfinished business or correspondence to discuss.

Constitutional Amendments

There were no constitutional amendments to discuss.

Election of Officers

Dora Rzesutek was re-elected to the position of Vice-President. (Marconi/West End Blues)

Kim Johnson was re-elected to the position of Secretary. (London United/Taxandria)

Both positions were acclaimed.

New Business

A proposal was made by a member that the membership consider requiring player cards for the Recreation Division. The Executive considered the proposal and looked into what other Leagues were doing. The proposal was raised with the membership at the meeting.

Motion: "Every player in the Recreation Division must have a Player's Card."
(West End Blues/St. Thomas)

Carried: 16 votes to 8 votes.

For the upcoming season, the Executive has decided to introduce the services of a Compliance Officer to the League. The Compliance Officer will review game sheets and attend games to address concerns frequently raised by members over breaches of rules and protocols. The initiative was explained by Director Abbi Lezidis who also introduced Dan Wybo to the members. The purpose of the Compliance Officer's efforts will be on making the experience of playing in the League a better one – for instance, to ensure that game sheets are properly filled out, that the players listed have the right identified jersey number, that the players are properly registered. The Compliance Officer will not be reporting problems to your opponents, but to the Executive.

The Executive gave a special welcome to Jurgen Klaus, the coach of multiple women's soccer teams in the League. Mr. Klaus had sustained an injury in June of 2018, after falling into a crevasse near a glacier in Norway. Mr. Klaus sustained serious injuries; his story of survival was inspiring.

Matt McReady attended the Annual General Meeting on behalf of Ontario Soccer. He explained to the membership that referee fees across all leagues in the province have been standardized. The fees will now be:

- \$70.00 for competitive divisions;
- \$60.00 for recreation divisions; and
- Assistant fees will now be \$55.00.

The revision now standardizes this League's fees with those of the men's league. The effect of the standardization is that officiating one league will no longer be preferential to another:

our Referee Coordinator will have less of a challenge retaining better match officials for our games. The new fees take effect on January 1, 2019.

Travel fees have been standardized for our district and fall below the provincial levels. The Referee Coordinator explained that she prefers to use local referees, if at all possible. She noted that if she requires out-of-town officiating, she texts or calls the team contact before the official comes from out-of-town. This is another reason to maintain up-to-date contacts on the web.

The President stated that the Executive anticipates electronic registration – e-filing the registration form and e-transferring the payment – for next year’s Annual General Meeting. Payments may be dropped off at the meeting, but it is the Executive’s hope that much of the work done will be done in advance of the meeting. To be eligible to vote at the meeting, members will be required to have completed their registration.

The members discussed the assignment of teams to a division to ensure balanced scheduling and fair competition. The general consensus was that twelve teams is too many to handle easily within one division. A motion was proposed to the membership.

Motion: “Teams will not be placed in divisions higher than the Third Division, wherever practical, if a balanced schedule cannot be created to best of the Board’s ability.”

Carried: 26 votes to 0 votes.

The possible move to Sports Engine was briefly discussed along with associated costs.

A discussion occurred in relation to the risk of extreme heat to players. Director Abbi Lezizidis noted that if the temperature is 38.5 degrees, it is mandatory for the teams to take two fifteen minute breaks per half. If the temperature is over 38.5 degrees, the teams do not have to play. Many teams choose to play, later in the day to avoid the heat. Safety of players must be a priority.

Motion to Adjourn: carried (London United/German Canadians)

/kgrj