



2008 NMMSA Annual General Meeting Minutes

2008 NMMSA AGM was held at the Ailsa Craig Community Center Wednesday, 3rd of September. Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Welcome by president Stuart Thorpe. General comments regarding success of club and teams. Stuart stepped down as president due to starting a new job in Michigan. Effective following the first executive meeting in October.

Reports were made by the following NMMSA executive and guests:

Referee Coordinator Kate Hollestelle discussed the pre-season referee clinic which she had organized with the Western Counties Soccer Association (WCSA) Referee Trainer, Steve McEachern. 19 young referees participated in the day long course at the West Williams Park. Kate also talked about the improvements made in communication between the coordinator and the referees via the new "referee Calendar" set up on the NMMSA website. With relatively few exceptions, the referees were present for home games. Kate requested that the referee coordinator be better informed of any game rescheduling due to weather postponements. Kate also mentioned that NMMSA seemed to pay below other clubs for referee's fees. It was also noted that carded referees from previous years would probably be interested if the fees were higher. It was decided to refer the referee fee schedule to the NMMSA executive for further study (e.g. benchmark other club's ref. Fees through WMYSL). Jeanny Aerts recounted seeing some teams shaking the hand of a referee following one game and suggested NMMSA teams adopt the practice. Jeanny suggested that a referee mentor be sought to review individual referee's performance and provide constructive feedback. Matter was referred to executive for consideration. It was noted that one boy was not called to referee even though he had indicated his desire to do so on the registration form (Brad McCormick). Matter was referred to the registrar for follow-up.

The floor was offered to guest speaker, David Small, who is the coach of the unaffiliated Nairn Cardinal Club's U13 girls intermediate team. The team was comprised of many players previously registered with NMMSA. The team was established by Dave to offer local players the challenge of the London & District Youth Soccer League (LDYSL) without having to leave the area. The team was very competitive in its inaugural year; finishing 8th out of 11 teams. Development was both emphasized and realized as evidenced by the improvement in play in the second half of their schedule.

Peter DeJong, NMMSA club representative to the West Middlesex Youth Soccer League (WMYSL), presented a report on the dealings at the monthly league meetings. NMMSA has been well represented at the league level in recent years with Pete as the past president and Kandace Bice as the current vice president in charge of discipline. Pete mentioned that the league had asked all clubs to adopt the game score report format established by NMMSA last year. Pete noted that for a fairly small club, our teams are usually very competitive. With his own daughter graduating this year from the U18G program, Pete announced that he is stepping down as the WMYSL rep. effective the end of this calendar year. Stuart accepted his resignation. Pete has been an executive member since the early 1990's; filling a variety of positions along the way. His experience will be missed.

Registrar Jeanny Aerts reported that 312 players had been playing this year. Jeanny mentioned that she would have early registration forms available following the AGM conclusion. Early registration offers the advantage of freezing the registration fees at the current year's levels. Jeanny mentioned that the practice of blanket mailing registration packages to the players from the previous year would be not continued for the 2009 season. Registration forms are available for download on the www.nmmsa.ca website. In addition, forms will be made available at all area schools, and at a yet to be determined walk-up registration event. Notices at the schools and advertisement in local newspapers will be made prior to the walk-up event. Jeanny offered to direct mail registration packages upon request. A direct mail sign up list was to be made available at the conclusion of the AGM.

Treasurer Wayne Ryan was unable to attend the AGM. Stuart presented the financial statement on Wayne's behalf. The statement was an itemized year to date summary with the 3 previous years data also included. With allowances for a few outstanding items, the net result was positive for the year. One such major item was for the County \$6 per player field maintenance/useage fee. Beatrix Enter noted that it appeared that some of the "Team Sponsor" money had been mistakenly entered as "Donations". Item deferred to next executive meeting.

Bernice Cadman discussed the U9 travel league between NMMSA-Grand Bend- South Huron. Stuart mentioned that the South Huron Club was interested in prolonging the U9 Travel season (it ended this year in July). NMMSA membership was voted to extend the season to mid-August for 2009. Bernice tasked with contacting the other clubs to discuss extending the season.

Beatrix Enter reported on fundraising and equipment. Aside from a generous sponsorship from the Middlesex Pork Producers for 4 sets of jerseys, the sponsorship was getting very difficult. Beatrix asked the membership to forward any leads regarding any sponsorship interest for which they might be aware. 2 Major donations from the Parkhill Tim Horton's and the Parkhill Lions Club were gratefully acknowledged. Beatrix stepped down as the equipment manager position but retained her position as Fundraising Coordinator. She identified that one priority for next year should be the restocking of the coach's first aid kits.

Kathy Willemse was unable to give the Saturday Morning Coordinator report as she was away on vacation. Stuart informed the membership that Kathy had offered her resignation as Saturday Morning Coordinator effective the first executive meeting in October. Stuart accepted the resignation.

The picture situation was brought up by Stuart. The plan to have the U9 travel and older teams to submit a team shot to one executive member for submission to Sports One Photography did not work out very well. It seems that most teams either sent their pictures in direct or chose to print their own. Referred to the executive for further review and improvement. Stuart asked that all teams still without a team picture to forward a digital picture to him by the NMMSA website email. Stuart to get the pics submitted to Sports One for distribution at the Pizza dance Sept 12th.

Stuart mentioned a serious matter regarding the use of non-eligible players. The league had approached Stuart regarding 2 specific instances involving NMMSA teams. It seems that the rules regarding the use of trial players was either not properly understood or at worst ignored. Stuart challenged the membership to report such cases to the executive immediately as it violates the spirit of fair play, tarnishes the club's reputation, and could jeopardize NMMSA's insurance coverage.

The floor was then opened up to the general membership for questions and comments. D. Kathy Hendrikx requested that Pete DeJong ask the WMYSL to consider offering a U17 boys division for 2009. NMMSA has seven U16B players graduating at the end of this season. Pete agreed to bring this up at the next WMYSL meeting. An unidentified member asked for a shirt drop off to be provided at the pizza night Sept 12th. Beatrix agreed to set this up. Stuart asked the membership to contact him if anyone knew someone who would be willing to remove the old white trailer located at the Nairn Park. The trailer is no longer in use and is starting to deteriorate. Stuart also noted that the County had agreed to provide storage space to NMMSA in the defunct ball diamond food booth at the West Williams Park. Stuart to meet with Scott Nickles later in September to look at what needs to be done inside the booth to permit storage (e.g. shelves etc.). Any participation towards the costs of prepping the booth to be remanded to the next executive meeting in October. Dennis Van Massenhoven requested that additional backstops be added to the west end of the West Williams fields to prevent balls from entering the corn fields. Request to be handed to facility coordinator Paul Mahon for discussion with the county.

No further items from the general membership.

The following executive positions were open for nominations:

President

Stuart notified the membership that Kathy Willemse had expressed interest in putting her name forward for position of president. Beatrix Enter nominated Kathy Willemse. Laurie Maslan seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

Saturday Morning Coordinator (SMC).

Angela Porter put her name forward as the Saturday Morning Coordinator. The membership voted unanimously in favour of Angela as SMC.

WMYSL Representative

Jeff Hathaway volunteered to be the WMYSL representative. The membership voted unanimously in favour of Jeff as the WMYSL Representative.

Equipment Manager

Marysia Coutts volunteered to be the Equipment Manager. The membership voted unanimously in favour of Marysia as the Equipment Manager.

Stuart thanked the membership and invited all to attend the Pizza/ Awards Dance 6:30pm at the Ailsa Craig Community Center Friday September 12th.

Meeting adjourned by Stuart at 9:10pm.