

## Minutes of the December 8, 2008 Meeting of the SYS Board

Present: Ron W., David L., Scott B., Kevin R., Ken O., Chris, W., Roy P., Ken W., Mindy H., Brenda B., Ann C., Kim O., Brian S., Jimmy R., Bob R., Andrea B., Michael R., Keith B., John C., Lisa M., Allan J., Bob G., Heston Chipman (visiting GU-10 coach)

The meeting began about 7:17 PM at Brenda Buckley's home.

The November minutes were approved.

Mike R. gave the Treasurer's Report. There is a cash balance of \$186,550. We still haven't received all registration fees from Activ.com. This could add about \$50 k to the cash balance. The timing of the payment of fees and bills makes it difficult to assign an exact number, but it looks like we'll be about \$50 k ahead of where we were last year. There followed a discussion about the proposed budget for the coming year. Ron said that the lacrosse people are supposed to split the fees for the port-a-potty at SAC. Keith B. said the field maintenance budget was ok. Roy P. he can't be sure what the costs for a dedicated Play Soccer coach for the coming year would be. It seems that we can cover paying 1/2 of the fees for Shrewsbury coaches who take the upcoming G-licenses course. Ken W. said we still should be getting some money from the photographer. Ken O. said we need to purchase 2 new goals at the Foundation. This would cost about \$1400. When one includes the cost of mini goals and of nets, we should add another \$1400 to the equipment budget. Finally, it was suggested that we add an additional \$1400 to the equipment budget just to be on the safe side. Kim O. and Mindy thought the ref fee budget should drop to \$6500. Since we are not buying trophies for the U-10s anymore, the trophy budget should drop to \$4000.

After more discussion, the following changes were incorporated into the proposed budget:

- Drop the proposed income from interest to \$3000

- Drop ref fee budget to \$6500

- Drop trophy budget to \$4000

- Drop tax fees to \$1000.

- Add to equipment budget for goals and nets--\$3200

There was a brief discussion about uniforms. Ron feels that more info is needed before there can be a definite proposal to change our policy about uniform purchases and distribution. Lisa made a motion that we approve the proposed budget except for the line items relating to uniform expenses. She also proposed that we postpone discussions of uniforms until a later meeting. This motion was approved.

Ron said that Keith B. plans to leave the boarding July. Keith said that it would be good to have a new person in place by March so Keith could show him the ropes of the job. Ron reminded the group that Bob Birney is also resigning as VP.

Registration is now closed. Any sign-ups from now on will be charged a \$15 late fee and will be put on a waiting list by the appropriate AGC. So far 864 have registered. This is down about 15% from the final total of last year. Most of the drop off is in the Minis program but there are usually a fair number of late sign-ups for that group. For late registrants for the Minis, Kevin creates a wait list but tells the parents there is a strong likelihood that their child will be put on a team.

The secretary thinks that the general procedure for late registrants is that the parent is forwarded to the appropriate AGC. The AGC puts the child's name on a waiting list. The AGC then sends a link to the parents for registration and asks the parents to let the AGC

know when they have completed the registration and have sent a check to Bob Platz. Bob P. is very good at keeping AGCs up-to-date on late registrations.

The board policy is that there are *no* late-fee exemptions for anyone, including older players.

Bob R. gave the MAYS report. MAYS wants eventually to have a Div 4 but feels there are not yet enough Div 3 teams to make such a move feasible. The MAYS by-laws were changed so that there is now a \$100 fine for adding or dropping a team and a \$200 fine for changing a team's placement. (The latter situation forces two schedules to be changed.)

Cliff Cloutier is the new MAYS president. There are now three open positions on the MAYS board. Ron suggested that SYS board members consider finding one or two volunteers to fill one or more of these positions.

January 4<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for turning in to MAYS a spreadsheet with field info, # of teams in each division in each age bracket. Also needed are preliminary team rosters, coach names and phone # for traveling teams. Final rosters are due in March.

Spreadsheets for team profiles are available on the MAYS website.

February 1<sup>st</sup> is the date for the pass card and ref meeting. Fall pass cards are ok for the spring. New pass cards must be signed by the player for U-12 and older. Pass cards must be typed, not hand-written.

March 15<sup>th</sup> is the date for the MAYS coaches' meeting. Season begins in first week of April.

Fundraising—Ron said we have four sponsors signed up so far. Once we get the ten we seek, the board has to vote to approve each sponsor.

Equipment—no problems. Ron said that some coaches at the last coaches' meeting said they would like SYS to provide each team with a small pump and with a goalie shirt. The consensus in the discussion that followed was that it was reasonable to supply a pump to each team.

Ron asked the board members if they thought it would be ok to put team rosters with players' names on the website. All other Shrewsbury sport programs do this. The board seemed ok with this. Ron said we can work out later the details for doing this.

Roy P. gave the player/coach development report. March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-10 PM are the date and times for the G-license course that will be held at Sherwood M. S. Not everything is yet finalized but things seem pretty definite at this time. We need at least 16 coaches to sign up for this program. SYS will pay for the use of Sherwood.

Roy plans to meet with PlaySoccer at the end of December to get more info about the dedicated-coach program.

Heston Chipman (HC) then asked if he could speak to the board. He is a GU-10 coach and had three points he wanted to bring up. Each of these points generated a fair amount of discussion. The three points were:

- 1.) HC would like to have the U-8s play 6 v 6 with a keeper rather than 4 v 4 with no keeper. He felt that with the present system, advancing U-8 players have too much to learn about the basics of the game. Ron said the board has spent a good deal of time discussing this already. Almost every major soccer institution in the US recommends that U-8s play 4 v 4 so they will have many more ball touches in a game.

2.) HC said that he thought the U-8 program should not have coed teams. Ron said that this too had been discussed by the board. More data needs to be examined to see if separating male and female players at this age is really that productive.

3.) HC felt that any Div. 1 U-10 team should have only 4<sup>th</sup> graders on it. Ron said that the board had wrestled for a long time with this issue but now feels that there are more positive points to having the best players in a particular age group make up the Div. 1 team(s).

Much of Mr. Chipman's points seemed to be related to the difficulty that exists in assigning advancing U-8 players to U-10 teams. The board agreed that there is not a simple solution to this problem. Ron said that we are still fine tuning the selection process and will continue to work on it.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert H. Garvey