

Minutes of May 5, 2008 Meeting of the SYS Board

Meeting began at 6:30 PM

Present: Ron W., Andrea B., Ken O., Rachel B., Bob P., Mike R., Roy P., Jim E., David L., Kevin R., Ken W., Jim R., Allen J., Mindy H., John C., Keith B., Bob Garvey, and two representatives for *Play Soccer* (Dave Gates and Matt ?)

Registrar's Report (Bob P.)—Bob said he will continue to use Active.com for registrations for the time being. He negotiated a \$1,000 saving with them. He wants to try out an alternate site by having some older, experienced players use it to register. There was some discussion about the dates for registration. Ron wants the registration done, except for late registrants before tryouts. The dates for registration were set from 5/7 through 5/26. Tryouts begin on 5/28. Late fees will go into effect on 5/27. Registration cut-off date is 6/16.

Walk-in registration will be held on 5/22(Thursday) from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Mindy volunteered to try and reserve the Sherwood cafeteria. It was agreed that we need to do a good job of informing parents about these dates. Bob P. will get fliers out and Ron said he would see that a notice is out on cable. Bob P. also said he would talk with Chris about sending out an e-mail blast. We need to contact kids who only play in the fall.

Mike R. said that money from a fundraiser had been set aside for "scholarships" for hardship cases. He needs to know how much money is used for this purpose each season so he can keep track of it.

Tryout Discussion—Ron then reported on a productive meeting he had with the AGCs. Much of the discussion was about how tryouts were held and the need for consistency among the age groups on how tryouts are held. SYS is now committed to placing players on team according to talent without consideration of grade. Part of the evaluation of players' talent comes from the coaches' evaluations. The AGCs need to take the lead in getting these evaluations from the coaches. We also need to make the tryouts consistent and as objective as possible. We need more support at the tryouts so evaluators and those running the various stations are not the same people.

Dave Gates from *Play Soccer* then gave a presentation about how they run tryouts for some Massachusetts towns, including Northboro (for the past 3 years). They have four stations and hold small-sided games. Evaluate how players play the game, not simply who scores. Players' movement without the ball and how players work on defense are important factors in their evaluation. Players are identified only by numbers. They don't believe in non-pressure skill stations. They also do not believe that their evaluation should be the sole factor in placing players on teams. Town they work four usually place their top 6 or so players automatically on the top team in an age group. The remainder of the top team is then selected, as in the past, from a pool of players chosen from tryout evaluations, coaches' evaluations, etc. They run the entire tryout and run all the stations and supply the evaluators. Part of their evaluation is to rate the player as offensive or defensive. They also rate keepers. They admitted that small-sided games make it tough to evaluate shooting ability. *Play Soccer* likes to use a numerical rating scale that extends beyond 4. SYS would still handle the sign-ups and giving out the numbers to players.

Ron said he envisioned setting aside two hours for each tryout. This time includes 30 minutes for sign-ups, etc. and 90 minutes for the actual tryouts. He needs to confirm that our proposed tryout dates are ok with *Play Soccer*. The *Play Soccer* then left the meeting.

There then followed a discussion of the fee for this surface. Ron estimated that there would be 8 *Play Soccer* people per tryout each of whom would get \$30 @ hour or \$45 per trout. Eight times \$45 is \$360 per tryout. The secretary does not know the total number of tryouts that will be held. Ron estimated the total expense would be about \$2500. After some discussion, first Mindy and then Andrea proposed that we hire *Play Soccer* to run the tryouts this spring and that we spend no more than \$2500 for this service. The vote was unanimous in favor of this proposal. The secretary believes that this money is coming out of the player-development budget. Rachel B. needs the info about the dates, times, and sites for the tryouts so coaches can be informed if their practices will be disrupted.

Treasurer's Report (Mike R.)—Mike handed out a three-page report and discussed some of the details of that report. We have about \$7,000 more cash now than we had last year. Mike said that we seem to be "on budget" for the year with no outstanding expenses.

Field Report (Keith B.) Glavin fields are being mowed. Mowing pattern will be changed each week. Several coaches said the grass needs to be cut shorter. The Glavin sprinklers are ready to go. The town has opened the Foundation sprinklers. Those at Floral will be opened next week. Keith said that coaches need to move goals at practice to save the fields. Board members need to take the lead if they see some coach not doing this. The walkway at Municipal has been fixed. No one has started working on the porch at the snack shack yet. There are some holes in field 5 at Glavin that need to be filled in. Bob G will do this. Need flags at the Lake St. fields. Bob G will put them there. Also, Andy Page said the outer box in the U-10 fields needs to be lined differently. Bob G said he'd take care of this.

Player/Coach Development—Roy P. said the keeper clinics went well. He'd like to see more keepers for the older teams show up. At least 15 *Play Soccer* vouchers have been used so far by coaches. Roy and Ron both agreed that we need to push the summer camps and the 3 v 3 jamboree. The AGCs need to take the ball here and keep after the coaches.

Fundraising—Ron said that \$400 has come in from t-shirt sales. We seem to have enough volunteers to run the snack shack at Municipal. We can't sell anything at Glavin.

MAYS—Ron said that coaches need to reschedule any postponed games within two weeks of the postponement. We have already had some forfeits and SYS pays a fine for each forfeit. Coaches should not be contacting Andy Page. Coaches must go to the AGCS, who then go to Bob R., while keeping Ron informed of any problems. Bob R. then contacts MAYS, if necessary. Ron promised to have the dates, times, and sites of the tryouts confirmed by Tuesday.

The next meeting will be held on SUNDAY, June 1, at a site and time to be named.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Garvey