**Present:**

*Members of the board of Directors*

Rachel Brace Deborah Melman-Clement

Marguerite Heer Shelby Lefort

Jenica Walker Dora Nomikos

*Teams*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Tiered* |  | *Masters* |
| Alehouse I | Mario Nets | Dragons |
| Alehouse II | Napanee Thunder | Hotspurs |
| Amazons | Omega Fir Club (*prior Boston Pizza)* | Miss Directions |
| Bronson and Bronson | PT United | Zingers |
| Cataraqui | Quarry Medical Chiropractic |  |
| CFB Knights | Rigney |  |
| Halliday Construction | Rose and Crown |  |
| Hurricanes | Sharks |  |
| Hyundai | Stand Your Ground |  |
| KB Homes | Turf Queens |  |
| Kickers | Velocity |  |
| Lanherne Lightning | Viceroy |  |
| Lightning Strikers | Violet Femmes |  |
| Luscious | White Lightning |  |

**Call to Order**

Rachel Brace, President, assumed the Chair of the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Conflict of Interest was declared at the start of the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was circulated to members before the meeting. Copies were also available at the meeting. On a motion *moved* by Nikki Mackay (Kickers) and *seconded* by Terri Buller (White Lightning) it was:

*Resolved that, the Agenda of the General Meeting of March 25, 2015 be approved. Carried.*

**Approval of Minutes of the KWSC General Meeting of April 2, 2014**

The minutes from the previous (2014) GM were circulated to members before the meeting. Copies were also available at the meeting. There were no requested changes to the minutes. On a motion *moved* by Irene Stead (Stand Your Ground) and *seconded* by Bob Machin (Alehouse I) it was:

*Resolved that, the Minutes of the General Meeting of April 2, 2014 be approved. Carried.*

**Opening Remarks from President**

* + Rachel thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
  + The representative for the uniform provider INARIA sends his regrets, however, if any teams want to purchase new uniforms this year from this company, they can let the Executive know
  + The Executive was introduced: Marguerite Heer Treasurer, Shelby Lefort Registrar, Deborah Melman-Clement Communications, Dora Nomikos Secretary, Rachel Brace President, Jenica Walker Disciplinary Officer, Sherry Gibson Scheduler (regrets).

**Report of the Treasurer**

* Outdoor Budget Presentation: Marguerite went over the proposed budgets for the Tiered and Masters divisions. The budgeted amounts were 2,601.71 (20 players) and 1,925.20 (16 players) for Tiered and Masters, respectively, assuming 14 games (Note: see also discussion about play-offs under New Business below).
* Marguerite brought up the issue of assistant referees (ARs) in regards to the budget. She explained that the budget presented includes ARs for all tiers in the play-offs only. However, there was a question / recommendation that had come up previously from both teams and referees that for Tier 1 in particular ARs be used for the entire season. There are not enough ARs in Kingston to use in all tiers for all games, however, for Tier 1 only, this can be done. If Tier 1 teams want this, it will cost them an additional $378 per team for 14 games. Bob Machin (Alehouse I) said he was against. Other team representatives were not sure. It was therefore agreed that this year again we will follow the status quo (ARs in play-offs only) and, depending on how the season goes, this may be discussed again next year.
* A question was asked by Kim Archibald (CFB Knights) about team rosters. Because the CFB Knights team is comprised of military personnel who, during the summer, may be transferred to and from Kingston, they may need to exceed the maximum roster number allowance of 25 players. How will this be handled this year? Rachel explained that all players registered will have to pay the OSA fees. While our club can add more players than 25, the issue is that OSA caps team rosters at that number. But this issue can likely be addressed for individual teams if/when it comes up. The CFB team should let the Executive know if it seems like they will need to exceed 25 players and the Exec will approach OSA, as necessary. Only the Registrar can remove players and they all have to be tracked.
* There were no other questions
* Teams were reminded that there is a fine for a late final payment of $50. For this year the final payment date has been set as May 28, 2015.
* On a motion *moved* by Terri Buller (White Lightning) and *seconded* by Chantal St-Amour (Bronson and Bronson) it was:
  + *Resolved that, the Outdoor Budgets as presented be approved. Carried.*

**Report of the Scheduler**

* The President Rachel Brace provided the report, as the Scheduler (Sherry Gibson) could not attend the meeting.
* Scheduling of games will start as soon as it is known how many teams have entered and what their tier placement is. Probably in early April. The schedule complexities involve being fair to all teams in terms of percentage of games on turf/grass as well as early/late start.
* Schedule for the month of May: New this year is that we will try to have all May games on turf fields, both to get around issues of surface wetness and also because it is expected that the City may not open the grass fields until June. Because there are not enough turf fields to accommodate all teams on a single night, for the month of May there will be two games a week (Thursday and Sunday) by tier – for example Tiers 1 and 3 may play Thursday and Tiers 2 and 4 may play Sunday. Having the use of turf-only fields in May makes field fees a bit more expensive overall and accounts for some of the budget increase. However, it is worth it so that we can play starting in May. Another change this year is that fields are being charged by the hour as opposed to by the game, so that also qualifies for some of the budget increase.
* There was a question from Louise Winn (Hurricanes) about whether there are any fields which do not have nets. Teams do not want to buy nets if not necessary. Answer: as far as the Exec knows all fields have nets.

**Report of the Registrar**

* Shelby explained that on-line registration will start on April 10. All players must be registered at least 48 hours before they play. Registration will close on June 30th. If, at that point, more players want to register, it would still be possible, but a request must be made in writing to the Registrar who can add to the system manually. Players who are registered late (i.e. not through the website), must sign the waivers in hard-copy.
* Registration instructions will be posted.
* A question was asked by Jane Douglas (Hotspurs) about the date the season will start. It was indicated that the aim is for the season to start on May 14th, however, this will need to be confirmed based on turf field availability.
* Team representatives were also reminded that the KWSC has a list of players who are looking for teams, so teams seeking players can contact the Registrar.

**Report from the Disciplinary Chair**

* Jenica Walker brought the following to team representatives’ attention:
  + To log a protest for a game: the protest must be submitted in writing, within 48 hours following the game, accompanied by a $50 fee. The protesting team must also notify the opposing team (contacts for team are on the website). Protests will not be allowed if a team does not follow the above rules, or for referee calls.
  + Disciplinary process: if player/representative wants a hearing or wishes to challenge a discipline, the Club must be notified in writing.
  + Cautions (cards) given during games must be reported by teams on the website when they do their Game Report. There is a $50 fine for not reporting cautions.
  + If a player is suspended and a fine is charged, the player cannot play again until both the suspension period is served and the fine is paid.
  + For both Discipline by Hearing (DBH) and Discipline by Review (DBR) OSA guidelines, rules and policies are followed.
  + There is a change this year in the registration rules in that the maximum number of competitive players allowed per team is 4 instead of 6. However, individuals who played with KWSC before will be grandfathered.
* A question was asked about the timing of red cards i.e. whether it mattered when those were issued during the game. Answer: No. Once a red card is issued the player must stop playing and also leave the game area.
* A question was asked about whether a red card meant a ‘cooling period’ (e.g. sit out for 5 minutes). Answer: Not for outdoor play. If a red card is issued the player must go out, leave the area and their team plays short.

**New Business**

* Saint Lawrence College (SLC) Field Project: Rachel explained that in the last (2014) Annual General Meeting it was stated that the Executive would update the membership about this project in the General Meeting. Therefore, progress is as follows: We were waiting for the City noise by-law to be amended to allow for use of fields at later evening times (i.e. lighted use). This occurred successfully on February 17th. The Exec then proceeded to meet with representatives of the College (Herb Stacey) to discuss the final Agreement for signing. This Agreement calls for KWSC to use the SLC field during the summer for 10 hours per week (including lighted use), free of charge, for 15 years, in exchange for a $100,000 amount from the Field Fund to be given to SLC from KWSC towards the installation of field lights. The College will maintain and line the field. The Exec deemed the Agreement to be vague in one clause which implied that, in the future, if SLC does not want KWSC as a partner they could walk away. The Exec sought the advice of a lawyer for alternate language which stipulates pro-rated compensation to the KWSC, in case of termination of the Agreement earlier than its expiry of 15 years. Also, the lawyer made suggestions for changes in other language, including language for extending the contract if, due to unforeseeable circumstances, KWSC were not able to use the field for a significant period of time (example extend by one year if field closed for maintenance an entire season). Rachel circulated a letter written by KWSC to SLC dated March 13, 2015, providing the College with the Lawyer’s requests for changes to the language of the Agreement. All the work undertaken by the lawyer to date has been pro-bono (no charge), but if SLC was to respond to the March 13th letter with a counter-proposal which necessitated more negotiation, legal fees would apply. The membership was asked how they felt about the possibility of spending money on legal fees for the SLC project. Rachel explained that we have consulted with the Club Auditor who confirmed that money from the Field Fund is eligible to be used towards legal fees applicable to the Field Fund Project. Sandra Jass (Amazons) stated the opinion that a couple of thousand dollars in legal fees would be well worth the price for protecting the Club’s $100,000 investment. There was general agreement with this comment from the floor. Rachel thus concluded the discussion by stating that the next step is to await the College’s response to the KWSC letter of March 13th. If our wording changes to the Agreement are acceptable to SLC, the KWSC Exec will proceed to sign the Agreement; if more negotiation is required, the KWSC Exec will engage the lawyer further (with payment). The membership will be provided with an update through the Communications email.
* Play Offs: Chantal St-Amour (Bronson and Bronson) asked if play-offs can be eliminated and Rachel explained that the same request had come up at the 2014 AGM as well. Rachel opened the topic for comments / questions from the floor. The following was brought up:
  + Jane Douglas (Hotspurs) felt that teams in lower tiers generally do not seem to care for play-offs, however, teams in higher tiers may.
  + A representative from tier 2 stated that she likes play-offs, as it keeps teams motivated up until the end of the season.
  + Bernie Harpell (Cataraqui) asked what would happen to the prize money for the winner of playoffs if there were to be no playoffs. Rachel responded that this would need to be thought out, but perhaps one idea is to provide prizes to the first two teams of round-robin play.
  + Nikki Mackay (Kickers) stated she likes play-offs because they bring excitement.
  + Rachel said if we had no play-offs then another suggestion may be to have a mini end-of-year-tournament instead.
  + Nikki Mackay (Kickers) asked if having play-offs or not may be a tier-specific choice as opposed to a one-fits-all decision.
  + Marguerite commented that that by the end of the summer a lot of players leave to go back to University or are on vacation, so team rosters tend to thin out. We have had cases of teams defaulting on their play-off games or playing with short rosters.
  + A recommendation was put forward by Jane Douglas (Hotspurs) that captains and co-captains should survey their teams to get preferences / recommendations and then come prepared to discuss this topic again on the 2015 AGM.

Rachel concluded the conversation by saying that Jane’s suggestion sounded reasonable. Play-offs will be kept for the 2015 Outdoor Season, but the topic will be discussed again in the 2015 AGM, after all players have had a chance to provide input. The Exec feels that this should be a decision made by the membership, not the Exec only.

**Final Questions / Comments**

* Rachel asked the floor if there were any more questions. They were as follows:
  + The CFB team stated that they have a military tournament in August and asked if it would be possible that the KWSC schedule can accommodate it. Answer: if the CFB team provides the KWSC Scheduler with the tournament dates, we will try to accommodate the team as much as possible, taking into consideration the needs and convenience of other teams as well.
  + Brian Heaton (Napanee Thunder) asked which fields will be used for the 2015 Outdoor season. Answer: So far, we are looking at the following fields

*Thursdays*

*Queen's: Tindal, Miklas-McCarney, West Grass*

*City:  Woodbine 2, 4, 5; Caton's 1, 2; McCullough North and West; CaraCo*

*Turf; John Machin Turf*

*Other: St. Lawrence, CFB Kingston, Napanee*

*Sundays*

*Queen's: Nixon, Miklas-McCarney*

*City: CaraCo Turf; McCullough North, South & West*

*Other: St. Lawrence, CFB Kingston, Napanee*

* + It was asked what happens in case of bad weather on game nights, if the City closes the fields. Answer: Rain does not affect turf fields. However, if the City were to close the grass fields games will not be played that day. If 70 minutes or more of the game has been played at the time of closure, then the game is not rescheduled. Otherwise, the game may or may not be re-scheduled depending on timing during the season and field availability.
  + The CFB team stated that if the CFB field is to be used and there are any issues with the field itself or its use, then the CFB team representatives are happy to help – just let them know.

**Adjournment**

On a motion *Moved* by Terri Buller (White Lightning) *Seconded* by Nikki Mackay (Kickers), it was:

*Resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:51 pm. Carried.*