



GLOUCESTER DRAGONS RECREATIONAL SOCCER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 16, 2013 – 7 p.m.
1-5510 Canotek Road, Gloucester, ON

MINUTES

PRESENT:

David Lowe, Chair	Luc Beauchamp, Senior Girls
Pat Lacasse, Operations	Susan Morris, Mini Girls
Alain Glandon, Past Chair	Michel Beaulieu, Mini Boys
Owen Brady, Marketing & Community Relations	Leah Hutchinson White, Micro 7-8
Irina Nikolova, Treasurer	Currie Rowe, Micro 5-6
Remi Beaudin, Equipment and Facilities	Bridget Edmonds, Office Manager
Oscar Vargas, Coach Development	Richard Ernst, Member/Coach
Guillermo Alvarado, Senior Boys	Ivor Pontiroli, Member/Coach

REGRETS: Chris Wade, Head Referee

2.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION

That the agenda be approved

Moved by Remi Beaudin

Seconded by Pat Lacasse

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of October 16 Minutes

Mr. Ernst corrects the name of his late son's, correct name is Justin

MOTION

That the minutes of October 16 be approved as amended

Moved by Pat Lacasse

Seconded by Remi Beaudin

CARRIED

4.0 Address of the Chair

David welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting for business.

5.0 Director's Reports

Each Director presented their report with the following additional comments

Guillermo would like to alter the locations for the U15 to U18 Boys practice fields

Luc suggested that we provide alternate club options to U18 players not returning

Michel suggested we look into entering/hosting tournaments

Susan would like an in-depth discussion on coach training at the next Board meeting

6.0 Financial Report

Irina presented the financial report and questioned expenses for field development

7.0 Appointment of Auditors

The appointment of auditors was discussed and it was agreed to remain with Chris Finlay for the next fiscal year

MOTION

That Chris Finlay be appointment as auditor for the next fiscal year

Moved by Remi Beaudin

**Seconded by Pat Lacasse
CARRIED**

8.0 Other Business

It was suggested that the Annual General Meeting be amalgamated with the Coach appreciation evening so as to ensure a quorum. It was further suggested that the length of the meeting be shortened to keep interest and attention

9.0 Election of Directors

The following positions were open for election

Director, Marketing and Community Relations, **Owen Brady**

Director, Equipment and Facilities, **Remi Beaudin**

Director, Mini Boys, **Michel Beaulieu**

Director, Youth Boys, **Guillermo Alvarado**

Director, Micro 7-8, **Leach Hutchinson White**

All sitting Board Members expressed interest in remaining in their positions.

All were acclaimed.

The following positions are vacant

Secretary, Vacant

Head Referee, **Chris Wade**

It was agreed that we will approach the Hornets for possible joint Head Referee position

Appointment of OGSC Board Members

David and Michel were appointed. The appointment of the third member has been deferred to the December meeting.

MOTION

That David and Michel be appointment and the third member to be named at the December meeting

MOVED by Bridget Edmonds

Seconded by Owen Brady

CARRIED

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for meeting held on: _____

Date of meeting as per 1st page of this document

We certify that these minutes were approved on: _____

Date of approval

Name

Signature

Name

Signature

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

In 2013, 2,253 children aged 5 to 18 played soccer with the Dragons, on 164 teams. For comparison purposes, here are the registration numbers for the past five years.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Boys	1,475	1,396	1,317	1,287	1,243
Girls	1,277	1,191	1,159	1,070	1,010
Total	2,752	2,587	2,476	2,357	2,253
% change	-2.9%	-6.0%	-4.3%	-4.8%	-4.4%

Survey Results

At the end of the season, parents were asked to complete an on-line survey. Just over 300 were completed, giving a response rate of more than 10%. Here are some findings:

- 85% of players enjoyed the season
- 87% said they would register next year
- Having fun was the most important factor. The factors, in order of importance:
 1. Having fun
 2. Playing with friends
 3. Balanced teams
 4. Distance to fields

New in 2013

- We implemented 9v9 at U11 and U12, an OSA recommendation for LTPD. We were unable, unfortunately, to modify fields until the season ended.
- We introduced a new model at U5, following another OSA recommendation: no formal teams at this age. We received feedback from coaches and parents on what worked and what didn't, and we will be implementing some changes in 2014 based on this feedback.
- We introduced the "Can't Wait 2B9" program for U8 players, giving them the opportunity to practice twice a week instead of the regular once a week.
- Chris Wade, our head referee, introduced a referee mentorship program for young refs.
- We modified our coaching incentive program to incite more coaches to become certified.

Other Items of Interest

- We continue to be in good financial shape. See the audited financial statements for 2011-2012 and the unaudited statements for 2012-2013.
- We partnered with the Canadian Soccer Association for our year-end soccer day.
- Three fields were modified in September for 9v9 play in 2014.

Acknowledgements

Bridget Edmonds, our office manager, this year celebrated her 10th anniversary with the Dragons. I would like to thank her for her commitment to the club over these past 10 years.

I would also like to thank my fellow board members for all the behind-the-scenes work they do to make sure the club runs smoothly. Their many, many volunteer hours are greatly appreciated.

Yours in soccer,

David Lowe

Report of the Treasurer

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual (Audited)	2013 Actual (Unaudited)	2013 Budget
REVENUES				
Registration	370,000	357,558	353,295	350,000
Sponsorship	5,000	4,600	8,880	5,000
Merchandise				
Interest & Other	500	4,367	4,067	4,000
Other				
	375,500	366,525	366,242	359,000
EXPENDITURES				
Soccer operations				
EODSA, OSA, CSA fees	27,000	21,892	30,281	40,000
Uniforms	62,670	70,712	47,632	58,500
Soccer equipment	49,325	33,666	12,126	13,500
Equipment Distribution and storage	6,000		3,532	4,000
Medals, trophies and awards	20,000	15,233	18,418	22,500
Field facilities	31,000	57,532	33,200	31,775
Field marking	21,000		21,129	21,525
Referee costs	36,790	31,965	37,254	35,000
Development and training	10,325	12,159	15,569	20,000
Cup days and tournament costs	4,000	3,555	4,971	4,500
Capital investment in fields				15,000
Administrative costs				
Admin Services and Salaries	40,000	41,781	38,114	45,452
Bank and Interest charges	1,200		605	1,000
Depreciation	15,000	12,996	13,000	10,000
Insurance	7,000	6,050	6,129	7,000
Office expenses	11,000	11,576	9,708	11,865
Audit and Legal	15,000	7,499	10,498	7,500
Registration costs	12,500	1,435	13,458	2,000
Rent	25,000	28,047	28,046	28,500
Translation	1,700	2,011	3,773	2,061
Marketing and Public Expenses				
Advertising and Marketing	1,000	3,609	4,856	4,000
Meetings	200	316	552	350
Volunteer appreciation	4,000	7,403	18,076	7,500
Sponsorship expenses				
Website	1,500		2,217	
	403,210	369,437	373,144	393,529
Operating Result	-27,710	-2,912	-6,902	-34,529

Report of the Director, Operations

From the perspective of Operations, there were many changes to our program offerings this year to reflect the new matrix required by the OSA and to increase development opportunities for our members. Changes included:

- realigning our nights to play to allow call ups for U9 and U10 players to Hornets and to allow better coverage of games by officials
- moving to 9 v 9 play for U11 and U12
- realignment of the older age groups to U14, U16 and U18
- introduction of a retreat line up to U10
- minor modifications to time of play and rest times on Soccer Day
- re-writing the rules section of the Guidebook to increase clarity
- introduction of the CW2B9 program for U8 players
- modification of the U6 program to mirror last year's U5 program
- introduction of the Active Start U5 program

The only real hurdle to the implementation of the above changes was the 3-month delay in approval for the modification of Trillium, Roy and Sawmill Creek West fields to accommodate 9 v 9 play. The work on these fields is scheduled to be completed by mid-October, with contracts now having been signed. A fourth intermediate field will be created at Potvin with the use of portable goals.

The other significant operational issue was dealing with the permanent loss of the two Shefford Park fields, and the temporary loss of the four full-sized Potvin fields. With the short-term booking of fields outside of our normal area and some creative scheduling, we were able to manage until the Potvin fields reopened in July.

The only additional field work planned for next year is the re-numbering of the Potvin fields, which will include better signage.

No major program changes are planned for the 2014 season. There will be minor tweaks based on parent feedback and on the revised Mini-Soccer Rules, soon due for release by the OSA. The CW2B9 program received rave reviews and will again be offered. A curriculum is now in place for the Active Start program, and program leaders will have more direction for next year, and we are planning to offer them the assistance of Technical Coaches from the Hornets side of the Club.

Overall, this season was an operational success, and I look forward to another year with the Dragons.

Pat Lacasse

Report of the Director, Coach Development

AIM

To provide a synopsis of work carried out by the Director of Coach Development over the 2013 summer outdoor season so the GDRS parents are aware of my activities and to provide some suggestion on the way ahead.

DISCUSSION

In 2013, we had 164 Teams thru all age groups, which equates to 164 coaches most of whom had at least one assistant. Four of the 164 teams were the U5 category which was comprised of 163 players)

Here are the certification numbers for 2013.

Level	Number of Coaches
AS	13
FUN	18
L2T	13
S4L	10
RiS	29
Total	54 Coaches (of those 54, 29 also took RiS)

L2T was run at Emily Carr Middle School in Blackburn Hamlet and the S4L was run at Garneau Catholic High School in Orleans. All persons involved from the OSA and its instructors, the school board, and the custodians were very accommodating and extremely helpful.

I provided a pre-equipment pick up informative session for U5 to U12 Coaches where I provided session handouts and ensured them I was available if they had questions. This session was very well received.

I provided team coaching sessions as means of coach training. Provided one on one training to those coaches that required it or those who asked.

I attempted to answer all coaching issues and questions through e-mail and did attend as many on-field requests as I could.

The LTPD was predominately well received

Incentive program was well received and clinics were full.

THE WAY AHEAD, MY SUGGESTIONS

We should strive to provide coaching lessons throughout the season, starting with clinics and then (team oriented) by ether trained coaches or the coach development director/directors. We should look at providing optional attendance clinics to teach coaches at younger age groups what to teach and not to teach.

We need to ensure we qualify more coaches to ensure our kids are receiving the correct methodology. I recommend we consider hiring coaches at the U5 level to provide parents enough guidance over a longer period than one week. We should strive for a 3 – 4 week period.

We need to study further the U5 program and take some of the advice of participants into consideration.

Continue with our coach incentive program because as word gets out it may increase volunteers from the “fence sitters”.

Ensure we offer MED courses as our coaches need to understand their roles in the kids' lives and be given the correct tools to assist in making it a positive endeavor for all.

Write concrete Discipline Committee By-Laws to ensure they have the required ability to remove coaches whom are deemed detrimental to the kids, the Dragons, the OSA and Soccer as a whole.

Seek more input from our coaches to see what they feel can help improve the club and our coach development.

Strategic Plan: We need to put manuals and provide better guidance for our young coaches. We also need to provide improvement lessons to coaches who may be using wrong methodologies. We need to stress development over winning.

If a technical director is to be hired, he should be engaged earlier. Another possibility may be to contact the EODSA directly for coaching direction programs. We need to advertise further in growth-areas such as Riverside South.

CONCLUSION

A thank you to all board members on my first year. Your guidance was very much appreciated. I think we run an amazing club and while there are hiccups and place for improvement our positive feedback numbers tell a good story.

Coaches – Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated as quite frankly without you the kids cannot play and that's why we are here!

Parents – It takes a lot of time and patience to follow our kids around Gloucester playing this wonderful game but seeing them smile makes it all worth it so keep it up!

Yours Truly,

Oscar Vargas
Director of Coach Development 2012/2013

Report of the Director, Equipment and Facilities

1. STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2013

- Returned soccer equipment was removed from soccer bags and placed into bins for winter storage on August 26 to 30, 2013. Approx. 15 % of equipment returned is damaged and will need replacement for next season
- Laundry and dry cleaning (pennies and goal keeper shirts) was done September 1 sorting is on the way this process takes about a month.
- 2014 is world cup so probably world cup theme uniforms for 2014 season.
- Soccer nets on Potvin fields will remain up over the winter again this year. 2 nets at Potvin will need to be replaced in the spring 2014.
- A number of older inventory items and uniforms -- not for reuse -- will again be separated from other inventory this fall and made available for donation to third world countries.

2. ACTION TAKEN FOR THE 2013 SEASON

- Repeat: Each U5 Mini player was given a new Dragons soccer ball to keep.
- Repeat: 4 nets were replaced this year at Potvin fields.
- Repeat: Keeper pinnies were provided to all teams.
- Repeat: Ice packs, first aid kits, and air pumps were provided to all teams.
- Repeat: U12 are using size #4 soccer balls, & 13 are now using #5 balls
- NEW: Introduction of the official game ball for U-5 to U-8 size #3
- NEW: All teams (U5 to U8) have received medals, (U8 to U12 B&G) received trophy and (U-13 TO U18 B&G) received a green t-shirt.
- NEW: U13 teams used the small (gym-sized) Dragons equipment bag.
- Repeat: U7 & U8 teams received new, improved goal posts (i.e., from 1/2" to 1" diameter). Minor damage identified.
- Repeat: All U9 - U11 teams to receive 1 junior net with Velcro straps as regular equipment.
- Some donations (Soccer balls and uniforms) were sent to Sudan Africa. Thanks to Maria Fleming (a nurse with doctor unlimited) & OPP officer Sgt. Rob Haggerty. 3 local schools have received some soccer ball

3. REPEATS OR CHANGES INTENDED FOR 2014

AGAIN:

- All U5 players to receive and keep a new size #3 Dragons soccer ball.
- A senior net for all U13 - U18 complete with small blue soccer bag (part of standard equipment).
- All U7 to U8 teams to receive improved 1" diameter goal posts as regular equipment.
- All U9 - U12 teams to receive 1 junior net with Velcro straps as regular equipment.
- One pair of goal-keeper gloves to be offered to all mini and youth teams (U9-U18).
- 1 official game ball size #3 for U-5 to U-8 , size #4 for u-9 to u-12 and size #5 for U-13 & U-18

NEW:

- The 'Equipment Provided' list will be included in all soccer bags.
- U13 teams will use the small (gym-sized) Dragons equipment bags.
- U9 to U18 Boys & Girls to receive nets with Velcro for practice and regular game.
- U9 - U18 will receive practice pinnies (10 per team) as part of regular equipment.
- U-6 is now using 6' pug net for goal.

Remi Beaudin

Report of the Head Referee

General Comments

2013 was a year for change. The head referee position was centralized under the OGSC, amalgamating referee administration, including development, game assignment and issue escalation for both Hornets and Dragons. This allowed for more development opportunities for referees on competitive game assignments and monitoring of performance at these development opportunities.

We introduced a new minis ref mentoring program, which had experienced referees attending the first game for new minis refs to help guide them through their first refereeing experience. We were able to have mentors for 22 of 24 new minis refs. This program received great feedback. I should point out that these referee mentors were all volunteers.

This year also saw the expansion of the development evaluation program. We formalized the evaluator team to the following people:

- Chris Wade
- Jon Trottier
- Fred Meacoe
- Lutz Sukstorf
- Barry Walker

The evaluators met to review and revise the evaluation form, to more align it with the standard OSA assessment form. We were able to field five evaluators to varying degrees, allowing us to provide development evaluators for roughly 65% of minis refs and 35% of new entry level referees. This was short of our target of evaluating all new referees however. I am looking at how we can expand this program next year to provide better coverage. Referee schedules and evaluator availability made scheduling difficult.

Our club referee pool decreased this year from 158 referees last year, to 133 this year. This pool consisted this year of 25 district level referees, 72 youth referees and 36 minis referees. Scheduling went fairly smooth, with some challenges primarily on Thursday nights. Many competitive and house league divisions were scheduled for this evening.

We also began coordinating the assignment of referees to exhibition games through the head referee. In the past, coaches would often contact referees directly to see if they were interested. Centralizing this gave me the ability to distribute the opportunities to a wider base.

This year, in addition to the referee pre-season orientation, I hosted separate sessions for Hornets and Dragons coaches to discuss common coach complaints about officials and the challenges of being an official. I also delivered a short presentation on "Myths of the game" to help emphasize some of the challenges of being a game official. Feedback on both sessions was positive

During the coach sessions, I encouraged coaches to send me their feedback, both positive and negative. I was very impressed with the number of positive comments I received and the relatively few complaints.

This summer we also moved to using the E2E Soccer payment module that streamlined the referee payment process and allowed us to significantly reduce the administrative overhead with paying referees.

Of concern is the limited number of caution and dismissal cards issued this year in recreational games (seven caution, one player dismissal). Although this might seem like a positive, I am concerned that referees are not holding recreational players to the standards of conduct and fair play that they should. This should be something for discussion for next year in orienting referees, mainly returning referees.

Pre-season Referee Training

- Two Mini Soccer referee courses were scheduled and held this year and we were able to qualify 32 Mini Soccer referees. 10 mini soccer referees returned from last year. We had a lot of interclub cooperation with Cumberland and Rockland this year with minis refs. All clubs had candidates with schedule problems. We were able to transfer minis ref candidates among the three to meet the requests of most applicants.
- Two Entry Level courses were offered. 49 people attended the courses.

- We once again offered referee orientation sessions for new referees and for returning referees looking for updates on FIFA laws and changes in administration policies.
- Three ERSL Assistant Referee courses were held to qualify our Entry Level and District level officials to act as assistant referees in ERSL competitive games.

Bob Moir Referee of the Year

The 2013 Bob Moir Referee of the Year recipients are:

Mini Soccer Referee	Jamie Pokrywa
Entry Level Referee	Jordan Pokrywa

Closing Comments

I would like to thank a few people:

- Bridget Edmonds and Simon Tomlinson for the help in navigating my first year as head referee.
- Jonathan Trottier who was key in helping integrate the operations of the Hornets and Dragons by offering support to the Hornets side of the operation. Jon was instrumental in organizing the Hornets tournaments this year
- Special thanks to our referee mentors:
 - Jon Trottier
 - Barry Walker
 - Fred Meacoe,
 - Jason Wade,
 - Crwys Harris
 - Lutz Sukstorf
 - Michel Beaulieu

Our minis referees very much appreciated having someone there to help with their first experience

Chris Wade
Head Referee
Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club

Report of the Director, Marketing and Community Relations

Sponsorships

The GDRS season of 2013 was assisted by the sponsorship from the Active Start Soccer Fest run by the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA). The Bank of Montreal (BMO) also contributed funds towards our league and Lowe's provided additional sponsorship funding as an active member of our community.

Additionally, East Side Mario's, city councillor Tim Tierney, McDonald's, Mini Storage Ottawa, Lorenzo's and Growing Kids have all been generous sponsors for the 2013 season.

On behalf of the GDRS and our board I have thanked our generous sponsors who have kindly supported a league that helps our community grow, stay fit and teaches the importance of team playing abilities.

Giving sponsors who operate within our community the chance to give back is one of the main selling points. The season of 2014 will have similar sponsors with further small businesses' will see the value in being associated with the GDRS.

I am a firm believer that sponsorship provides the GDRS with additional funding for marketing purposes, and allows funding to be allocated to the development of other aspects of our league.

Charitable Contributions

Thanks to our fellow board member Jeremy Sales, the GDRS have donated Dragons jerseys to the country of El Salvador. I would like to create a campaign that informs parents of charitable acts the GDRS has taken in the past. I recommend as a board, we make a decision as to where the jerseys and used equipment go, so we can really make a difference to a community in need.

Community Relations

I would like to have seen a scrimmage happen at our city councillor Tim Tierney's annual BBQ this year. I will personally oversee that opportunities like this will be taken advantage of in the future. The day has a lot of potential for all of the parties involved.

The Active Start Soccer Fest was a great way for our younger players to celebrate the end of the season and to have some fun with their friends. The Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) has said they will be sponsoring soccer day again next year. I would like to see some level of either semi-professional or professional player(s) attend the day during its peak-hour. A photograph / signature booth would be popular with some of the younger age groups.

Advertising and Promotions

The advertising campaign for both print and radio was successful in generating awareness and by informing parents of the upcoming season. My contact at Rogers had moved on and I was unable to get additional "free" publicity. Unfortunately the program I was featured on in 2012 had been cancelled.

Placing advertisements with community papers in the region were successful and provided value for the featured content. I also had an advertisement feature in Ottawa's parenting magazine. The rate was fair and the demographics made sense.

I will be speaking to the board in the near-future to discuss additional ideas I have in terms of marketing.

Website

The website has benefited our bottom-line again; the online registration trend is not going to change. The website provides important information to parents, referees and players alike. A survey was created asking parents about their interest in future activities and their overall satisfaction with the services the GDRS provided.

I will make use of surveys to enable the GDRS to serve its community with the highest level of satisfaction possible.

Owen Brady

Report of the Director, Micro 5-6

In 2013, 420 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 6 played on 60 teams. Most players who registered late were placed on teams; U6 Micro 1 and Micro SG were full. Those who could not be placed on U6 teams were given the option to move up to the U7 level.

Below is a detailed break-down of this season's numbers:

Level	Registered	No. of Teams		No. of Players/ Team	
U5	163 (94B/ 69G)	28		6-8/ team (3 vs. 3)	
		Potvin	6	Potvin	6 teams of 6
		Carine Wilson	10	Carine Wilson	10 teams 6/7
		Blue Willow	8	Blue Willow	8 teams of 7/8
		Leitrim	6	Leitrim	6 teams of 6
U6	257 (154B/ 103G)	32		7-8/ team (3 vs. 3)	
		Micro 1	12	Micro 1	8
		Micro 2	12	Micro 2	3 at 7, 9 at 8
		Micro SG	8	Micro SG	8

To compare, below are the registration numbers for these age groups since 2010:

Level	2010	2011	2012	2013
U5 Boys	129	95	120	94
U5 Girls	88	64	81	69
U6 Boys	173	154	128	154
U6 Girls	84	86	70	103
Total	474	399	399	420
% of change	0.07%	-0.16%	0.00%	0.05%

Overview

Through the support of the Office Manager and the Board of Directors, I was able to confidently carry out the tasks of an Age Group Director at the Micros level. A special mention goes to Leah Hutchinson White who courageously mastered various programs in order to take on the other half of the micro division – U7/U8.

2013 marked the year of significant changes to our micros division. In order to be in line with Long Term Player Development (LTPD), the Gloucester Dragons reconstructed the model for U5, and also made some changes to game play for U6.

Changes included:

- Dividing players at the U5 level between 4 fields
 - o assign 3-5 super coaches and 6-10 coaches per location
 - o have parents actively involved in child's practice
- Making teams smaller; improving player development
- Taking players through a 3 vs. 3 game; focusing on touches on the ball
- Bringing back pug nets for U6

Through these changes, I received much feedback on the programs, and I look forward to applying these comments constructively toward the 2014 season.

Observations and Recommendations

1. The majority of coaches at this level need to be recruited; 2013 was no exception. Once teams were formed, the most effective way to gain a coach was to divide responsibility; 2-3 parents shared the role. Once parents were

given a clear outline of what their job within the season would be, most were happy to follow additional steps in order to familiarize themselves with the program and web material.

2. Due to the novelty of the U5 program, questions were constantly being asked, and coaches were often uncomfortable with leading such a large number of young players. Following the season-end Board meeting, and the Coach Appreciation night, the Dragons are currently looking into improving the introductory program by way of “tutorial coaches” to ensure that parents understand drills and can confidently lead players through it. The board is looking to have these coaches available season-round to ensure that Dragon coaches are comfortable, and that the program is running smoothly.
3. Due to the spike in registration of U6 Girls since 2010, the U6 teams are becoming more gender-balanced; eliminating lopsided team formation. If this trend continues, the club is sure to experience a more positive future, at the higher levels, for females in sport.

In Summary

Overall, the season was constructive for the U5 and U6 age groups and I anticipate next season to be even better, after all - *knowledge shared is knowledge gained.*

Currie Rowe
Director, Micro U5/U6

Report of the Director, Micro 7-8

By the numbers...

U7 Boys: 139 players, 14 teams, 2 divisions

U8 Boys: 155 players, 16 teams, 3 divisions

U7 Girls: 84 players, 8 teams, 1 division

U8 Girls: 76 players, 8 teams, 1 division

Most teams had 10 players on their roster. There was some slight variation on a few teams, however, and the rosters ranged from 6-11 players.

Director's Objective...

My objective as the Micro Director of U7/U8 was to ensure that our participants, whether they were a player, parent or coach, thoroughly enjoyed their season of soccer.

Pre-season...

I was able, this year, to accommodate all parent and coach requests for team placements for those participants who registered or made their requests before the initial registration deadline. To avoid having unbalanced team numbers, I did have to decline some requests from late registering parents.

I did run into some difficulty this year finding coaches for several teams. Some teams required several emails requesting a volunteer before anyone would step forward. One team did not have a volunteer step forward at all, so one of our Board of Director colleagues, Currie Rowe, graciously stepped forward to be their coach. From what I have been told, she did a fantastic job. Thank you very much to her. Anecdotally, the reason I was most often given by parents who did not want to volunteer as coaches was a variation on the "I have never played soccer/I don't know anything about soccer" theme. Canvassing for coaches early on in the registration process may help with this problem, since we could have the opportunity to provide support and learning pre-season. Also, offering a "Soccer 101" style program may be an effective means of providing this support and may help to inspire confidence in our prospective coaches.

Another issue that came up very early on, was confusion/resistance surrounding the new guidelines for number of players on the field. Many coaches felt having only five players on the field was not going to work out well. As the season progressed, however, I received very little negative feedback about this.

During the season...

I received very positive feedback from parents and coaches of U7 girls with respect to the separation of girls and boys at this age level. Many parents and coaches commented appreciatively on what they saw as an improved opportunity for the young female players to have increased 'touches on the ball'. The only negative comments were that the girls had to travel further now for games. Each time someone commented on this, I did take the opportunity to ask for a ranking of their preference- less travel or keeping the teams separated by gender. The parents/coaches I spoke with, unanimously, said they'd rather travel a bit farther to keep the genders separate at this age level.

We did have some problems with a couple of coaches arise throughout the season. Members of our Board of Directors, including our Director of Coach Development, did step in to offer as much assistance/support to these coaches as was possible.

Our South Gloucester divisions/teams tended to be our smaller ones. For U7/U8 Boys, the small divisions led to teams playing the same teams over and over, which was less than ideal in the eyes of some of our participants. The smaller South Gloucester teams for the U8 Girls, had issues with numbers showing up to games once the summer vacation season started. Merging the U7/U8 level in South Gloucester for Boys and U7/U8 in the entire league for the girls, could be worth considering.

Post season...

Parents and coaches that I have spoken to were very impressed with the Dragons' Soccer Day. Games, medal roll outs and presentations were very smoothly done.

The Coach Incentive Program was very well received by coaches. Many who did not follow through with the courses and requirements this year have indicated that they would like to do so next year.

2014 season...

It will be here before we know it and I am looking forward to being part of it again!

Leah Hutchinson White, Micro Director U7/U8

Report of the Director, Mini Boys

Mini Boys were divided into four age groups. Below is a breakdown of the Mini Boys Divisions with respect to number of players and number of teams.

Age Group	Number of Players (Approx.)	Number of Teams	Average Players/Team	Change From 2012 (Player #'s)	Change From 2012 (%)
U9 Boys	141	10	14	+36	+34%
U10 Boys	89	6	15	-3	- 3%
U11 Boys	97	6	15	+14	+17%
U12 Boys	63	4	16	-38	-37%
Total	390	26			

Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
U9 Boys	151	142	126	144	117	96	112	105	141
U10 Boys	139	113	110	116	119	93	77	92	89
U11 Boys	117	100	97	96	102	106	103	84	97
U12 Boys	122	107	100	100	86	100	77	101	63

From the table above, our registration numbers climbed up this year at the U9 and U11 Boys divisions and dropped down at the U12 Boys division and remained mainly steady at the U10 division.

For the U9 and U11 Boys divisions, our registration numbers remained above our 9 year average; while for the U12 division it remained below our 9 year average. The numbers for the U10 division remained at our 9 year average number.

Team Formation:

Team formations in U9B to U12B were smooth. All teams (besides one (1) team) having coaches by equipment handout. However, the majority of the coaches in all divisions did not volunteer prior to team formation.

Soccer Day 2013:

Soccer Day 2013 for the U9B-U12B was held on August 24, 2013 at Hornets Nest and went very well. All teams played 2 games on that day.

The teams were paired according to the standings (kept by the Dragons only) at the end of the season. All the players, coaches and supporters had fun on that day. Coaches and parents were pleased by the pairing of the teams.

At the end of the day, all the U9B-U12B players received a trophy for their participation in the 2012 soccer season.

Comments from coaches and parents:

During the course of the season and at Cup Day, some coaches and parents came to me with the following comments and/or suggestions:

1. Not keeping scores and standings at the U9-U11 divisions:

The 2013 season was the second season where scores and standings were not made available to the public and coaches. The scores and standings were still recorded by the organisation in order to pair the teams for Soccer Cup Day.

It was still an issue for some coaches and parents but for the most of the membership, the idea was well received. Focussing on soccer skills development, being with friends and having fun are the main focus of the Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer.

2. Having player evaluations done in order to balance teams:

This is a comment/suggestion that has been brought up for a number of years, now. In previous years, surveys were done to see if this was an opinion that was popular with everyone.

This year, the Dragons organization send out a survey to the parents in order to determine what were the major interests to register their children in Dragons soccer.

3. Having an end-season tournament for Soccer Cup Day:

This suggestion was brought forward by coaches and parents. The tournament could consist of a round robin where teams are placed into 2 separated groups. Teams from each group play each other. The top 2 teams from each group can then participate in an elimination round (semi-finals and finals). The winner of the elimination round would be declared the Soccer Cup Day Champion.

Some kind of tournament was tried this year at the U16G division. It was well received by the players, parents and coaches. The teams played three (3) games in one (1) day.

Something similar could be done within the U10, U11 and U12 divisions.

4. Having a recreational soccer tournament:

In this tournament, recreational teams from other associations (Internationals, WOSC, OSU, Nepean, Cumberland for examples) could be invited to compete in a tournament. The tournament would consist with a round robin and an elimination round in order to determine a winner.

Overall, the 2013 season was quite a success at the U9B-U12B divisions. The philosophy to LTPD was well received by the coaches and parents. The players learned soccer skills while having lots of fun with friends.

Sincerely,
Michel Beaulieu
Director U9-U12 Boys Soccer (9-12 years of age)

Report of the Director, Mini Girls

In 2013, 324 girls aged 9 through 12 played on 22 teams, as shown in the table below. Almost all the players who registered late were placed on a team. U11G was full.

Level	Initially registered	Final no. of players	No. of Teams	Median no. of players/team
U9	59	67	6	3@10, 3@13
U10	71	77	6	13
U11	68	74	4	18
U12	84	106	6	18

For comparison purposes, here are the registration numbers since 2005.

Level	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
U9	163	142	120	91	108	108	83	84	67
U10	135	143	129	90	81	100	101	85	77
U11	128	130	129	118	77	80	89	128	74
U12	133	120	115	123	104	78	83	80	106
Total	559	535	493	422	370	366	356	377	324
% change		-4.3%	-7.8%	-14%	-12%	-1%	-2.7%	5.8%	-14%

Items of Interest

- This was the first year for larger fields and larger teams for U11 and U12. Although the larger fields were not ready and the teams never actually played on the larger fields, there were no complaints about having such large teams
- 13% of all mini-girls players registered late, but 21% of U12 girls (last year was 28% for U12G!)
- Needed to recruit 5 of 6 U9G coaches. Two of them were not confirmed until after equipment pickup
- Only one coach from last year's U9 teams returned, two new ones recruited and the others had older children in the club, and had previous coaching experience
- 7 coaches took a training course this season (30%!!!)

Items to Work On

- Some of the teams in U9 that did not even have 11 players did struggle with not having enough players for about 50% of the games. Would 5 teams with a bye have worked better?
- Should we provide a list of possible ways that parents, other than the coach can help? Not all coaches may feel comfortable delegating tasks and responsibilities to lessen their load

Thank-you

So much volunteer time and effort goes into running the Dragon's soccer club. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in it; from the administration, to coaches, to people running the sidelines with the flags, to people retrieving out of bounds balls. We were part of something special!

Susan Morris
Director, Mini Girls U9-U12

Report of the Director, Youth Boys

In 2013, 307 boys aged 13 through 17 played on 16 teams, as shown in the table below.

Level	Initially registered	Final no. of players	No. of Teams	Median no. of players/team
U13/U14	152	147	8	18
U15/U16	87	85	4	21
U17/U18	73	73	4	18

For comparison purposes, please find below the registration numbers since 2006.

Level	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
U13/U14	181	192	198	264	202	179	148	147
U15/U16	116	133	138	109	93	100	108	85
U17/U18	61	60	38	67	55	42	46	73
Total	358	385	374	440	350	321	302	307
% change	--	+0.08	-0.03	+0.18	-0.20	-0.08	-0.06	+0.02

Items of Interest

- There were 9 disciplinary actions taken by referees this year.
- Out of the 9 disciplinary actions 2 were coaches, both red cards. The rest were yellow cards given to players.
- This year there was an increase in registration numbers after a 3-year slide.
- If we extrapolate the numbers from the U12 boys that registered in 2013, and assume that the registration for next age groups remain the same, then we could project that registration numbers will increase about 1%, or 35 boys.

Items to Work On

- Keeping boys interested in soccer at the U15 level and up.

Thank-you

I started halfway through the season, and have learned a lot. Thank you to all the other board members who have helped me out so much.

Guillermo Alvarado
Director, Youth Boys

Report of the Director, Youth Girls

I would like to start by thanking all my coaches for volunteering this season. Without coaches and great parents and players this association would not run as smoothly as it does.

This year we had 8 teams at the U14 Girls, 6 teams at U16 Girls and 4 teams at the U18 Girls. It was rough at the beginning of the season as we had way too many friend and coach request. This is normal I guess as for the girls it is more important to play with friends than winning.

Most of the teams in the U14 Girls division were very competitive except for one team which managed to get one point with a tie their last game of the season. We had two different teams win the season and Cup day which shows how close the top teams were during the season.

At the U 16 Girls division the last game of the season decided who would win the league title. The U18 Girls division was great thanks to our great coaches. I am very sad to say this was the last season for two of our U18 coaches as their daughters will be of the U19 Girls age group next year. I hope Helene and Richard will consider a head coaching job again next year even though their daughters can no longer play with us otherwise their expertise will be missed by all of us.

Once again I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out make season as great as it was for my age groups.

Luc Beauchamp

U14/16/18 Girls Director