



GLOUCESTER DRAGONS RECREATIONAL SOCCER
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 – 7 p.m.
1-5510 Canotek Road, Gloucester, ON

Present:

Bill Coleman, Director of Operations
Bridget Edmonds, Office Manager
David Lowe, Chair
Gaston Chan, Coach
Guillermo Alvarado, Director, Youth Boys (13-18)
Irina Nikolova, Treasurer
Judith Headley, Director, Micros (5-6)
Leah Hutchison White, Director, Micros (7-8)
Michel Beaulieu, Director, Mini Boys (9-12)
Mike Nigro, Secretary
Rémi Beaudin, Director, Equipment and Facilities
Susan Morris, Director, Mini Girls

Regrets:

Luc Beauchamp, Director, Youth Girls
Oscar Vargas, Coach Development
Owen Brady, Director, Marketing

1.0 Roll Call

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the Agenda be approved
Moved by Leah Hutchison White
Seconded by Michel Beaulieu
Carried

3.0 Approval of Minutes from 2014 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2014 AGM be approved.
Moved by Susan Morris
Seconded by Michel Beaulieu
Carried

4.0 Chairperson's Address

David Lowe provided a brief summary of the 2015 highlights, including members attending the Women's World Cup and members receiving Fury season passes. David mentioned that the club was in good financial shape. David also took the time to thank all the board members.

5.0 Director Reports

The directors' reports are available on the website.

6.0 Financial Report

Irina Nikolova's report, showing 2014 audited financial numbers, the 2015 budget and the 2015 unaudited financial numbers, is available on the website under the information for the 2015 AGM.

7.0 Appointment of Auditors

The chartered accountant who audits the Dragons' financial statements, Chris Finlay, has been recommended to be the Auditor for the 2015 year.

Motion: To reappoint Chris Finlay as auditor for the upcoming fiscal year.

Moved by Irina Nikolova

Seconded by Bill Coleman

Carried

8.0 Other Business

8.1 New Business

There was no new business.

8.2 Board Member Recognition

The board wishes to thank the departing board member, Irina Nikolova, for her tremendous contribution to the Dragons.

8.3 Volunteer Recognition

There was no formal recognition at the AGM as the volunteer-of-the-year voting has not been completed yet.

8.4 Election of Directors

The slate of candidates for the election was acclaimed:

Director of Operations: Bill Coleman

Registrar: Guillermo Alvarado

Director, Mini Boys: Michel Beaulieu (signing authority)

Director, Mini Girls: Leah Hutchinson White

Director, Youth Boys: Mike Nigro

The directors who are entering their second year of a two-year term (for which there was no election) are:

Chair: David Lowe (signing authority)

Marketing: Owen Brady

Director of Equipment: Rémi Beaudin

Coach Development: Oscar Vargas (if continuing)

Director, Youth Girls: Luc Beauchamp (if continuing). If not, Susan Morris (signing authority)

Director, Micros (5-6): Judith Headley (signing authority)

The following positions remain vacant:

Treasurer

Secretary

Director, Micros (7/8)

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the 2015 AGM.

Moved by Bill Coleman

Seconded by Guillermo Alvarado

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Report of the Chairman

In 2015, 2,074 children aged 5 to 18 played soccer with the Dragons, on 161 teams. For comparison purposes, below are the registration numbers for the five previous years. Boys' numbers have remained constant over the past three years, but the number of girls playing has dropped significantly. Perhaps the 2015 Women's World Cup will increase interest in 2016.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Boys	1,396	1,317	1,287	1,243	1,222	1,243
Girls	1,191	1,159	1,070	1,010	951	831
Total	2,587	2,476	2,357	2,253	2,173	2,074
% difference	-6.0	-4.2	-4.8	-4.4	-3.5	-4.6

2015 Highlights

- The biggest highlight of the 2015 soccer season in Ottawa was the Women's World Cup games at TD Place. Many Dragons players and parents took advantage of the discounted stadium passports offered to soccer clubs from the CSA. The World Cup will hopefully raise interest in the sport in Canada.
- Dragons' teams wore World-Cup themed uniforms in recognition of the World Cup.
- We modified three more 9v9 fields, allowing all U11/U12 games and practices to be held on 9v9 fields.
- We continued the "Can't Wait 2B9" program for U8 players, our third year.
- We introduced game sheets for all refereed games.
- We modified our playing-up policy at U13 and above to allow 15 players on the game sheet.
- All U5 to U14 players received an Ottawa Fury season's pass.
- Sparky, the Fury mascot, attended our U5-U8 Soccer Day.
- Our two Soccer Days were successfully held over one weekend.
- Hornets' keeper coach Raymond Martel again offered keeper sessions to our young goalies.
- Half of our coaches are now OSA certified, up from 25% two years ago.
- By year's end, we had a full board, the first time all the positions have been filled in a couple of years.

Other Items of Interest

- We continue to be in good financial shape. See the audited financial statements for details.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my fellow board members for the many, many hours of volunteer work they do to ensure the club runs smoothly. I would also like to acknowledge the great work of our office staff, Bridget and Nick, without whom we could not function.

Yours in soccer,

David Lowe
Chairman, Gloucester Dragons

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Introduction

As a new addition to the Board this year, my role was to learn about the operations of the Dragons, and to support the operational plan for the year. Bridget Edmonds continued to manage the office with excellence and has taught me a great deal about the detailed operations of the Dragons. I am pleased that Bridget has signed another three-year contract with the club. Nick MacLeod joined us in the summer to support the referees and other office duties as required. Jeff Dunlop has also volunteered and taken on all the scheduling duties and has done a fantastic job. Thank you!

Operational Highlights

Reports submitted by the age-group directors, the Chair, and other Board members will cover the details of the operations, but I would like to highlight a few issues for review at the AGM and consideration during the planning meeting for the 2016 season:

- Player registration continues to drop, down 5% from last season, to a total of 2,074 players this year. The largest decreases were in 13-18 year old girls (18% drop) and 9-12 year old girls (12% drop). At the planning meeting for 2016 I would like to recommend that the Board review demographic trends to ensure that we are still meeting the needs of the community.
- In cooperation with the City of Ottawa, we modified three more 9v9 fields to allow all U11/U12 games and practices to be held on the appropriate-sized fields. Our investment in small-sided fields should now be complete and we can continue to support youth soccer in accordance with OSA guidelines.
- The Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club was recognized by the Ontario Soccer Association with a Gold Award for excellence! The OSA's Club Excellence Award Program is a province-wide recognition program for effectively run soccer clubs, offering safe, healthy and enjoyable environments for all involved. The OGSC was one of only 12 clubs in the province to receive a gold rating. For 2016, the club will continue to implement policies recommended by the OSA in order to maintain our gold standing and to continue to improve our service to our players.
- Our fields were well maintained again this year. Our club rents fields from the City of Ottawa, who cut the grass, and we ensure all our fields are lined bi-weekly. There may be an opportunity to reduce our rental expense with the City by taking our maintenance expenses into consideration during the negotiations.

Thank you

In addition to our office Manager and referee coordinator, I would like to thank all our volunteers – coaches, students, and members of the Board – for their support this year. They are hard-working, fun to work with, and have the best interests of our members in mind. It has been a pleasure to serve with them and I look forward to working with many of them in 2016!

Respectfully,
Bill

Bill Coleman
Executive Director, Operations

Report on Marketing and Community Relations

Sponsorships

The 2015 season included sponsorship from the participation in Active Start Soccer Fest during our GDRS Soccer Days. Overall, I believe having the ability to participate in the festival is beneficial to our finances, players and families. Having corporate banners placed along the chain-link fence near the Hornets Nest parking lot and main tent, assists in constructing an enjoyable experience for attendees. The sponsorship generated \$1000.00

Pita Pit Orleans kindly donated 1000 vouchers for their snack-sized pitas. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the vouchers being issued, the vouchers were not properly distributed. My plan is to work alongside GDRS age group directors and have the vouchers circulated to our coaches, when they pick up their equipment bags for the 2016 season. Pita Pit has also expressed an interest in having a presence during the 2016 Soccer Day.

Ottawa Futsal Club agreed to a two-year sponsorship worth an overall \$1500.00. The continuation of the agreement may not happen, due to poor interest in their program and low registration. The sponsorship generated \$1500.00.

Charitable Contributions

Upon contacting personal connections via social media, I informed my contacts about GDRS and sponsorship opportunities. I was almost immediately contacted by Maxime Laperriere, of M.L. Flooring Ottawa. Maxime donated \$750.00 to GDRS and expressed his desire for the funds to be allocated towards economically challenged players in our league.

I believe all GDRS board members, employees and volunteers should reach out to their family members, friends and social media connections; encouraging them to donate funds towards covering GDRS registration costs for economically challenged families in our community / league.

Community Relations

Members of our board have previously expressed an interest in having two teams playing an exhibition match at City Councilor Tim Tierney's annual BBQ. I contacted him three times before the BBQ's date - each without success. I plan on contacting him in January to make an agreement on if and when this will occur.

Advertising and Promotions

For the second season in a row, I strategically placed dragonsoccer.com campaign style signs throughout Gloucester. I firmly believe in the usefulness of these signs and believe their overall low-cost is of great value. Community papers we're selected as a secondary aspect of the 2015 GDRS registration campaign – both contributed to our successful registration numbers.

I arranged for a videographer to cover and produce a one-minute video of Soccer Day 2015. The video is static and has a one-time production-cost of \$400.00 - a high level of value was attained. I believe the video is reflective of our league and our core values. The video will assist in communicating with the public about who GDRS is, and about recreational soccer in Gloucester. Additionally, the video provided value and exposure for our sponsors.

Web Site

The GDRS website has increased our bottom-line. The effectiveness of being able to register players, and provide information to parents about the league is an essential part for meeting our annual targets. I plan on posting the GDRS YouTube video and updating our website with additional sponsors in early 2016.

Owen Brady

Report of Director of Equipment and Facilities

1. STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2015

- Returned soccer equipment was removed from soccer bags and placed into bins for winter storage on August 26 to 30, 2015. Approx. 20 % of equipment returned is damaged and will need replacement for next season
- Laundry and dry cleaning (pinnies and goal keeper shirts) was done August 27 sorting is on the way - this process takes about a month.
- There are 30 sets of new uniforms available for the 2016 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 2016
- 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 2015 SEASON

- Repeat: Each U5 Mini player was given a new Dragons soccer ball to keep.
- Repeat: 6 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.
- NEW: World cup theme uniforms to commemorate FIFA women world cup in Canada
- NEW: Introduction of new goal post (6'x18') for all U-11&12 installed at 3 fields, nets will be removed at the end of season. Some damage reported
- NEW: All teams will be receiving medals at the end of season.
- Repeat: U13, 15 & 18 boys and girls received medals with gold, silver & bronze ribbons to represent winning position and mini trophies for league champions.
- NEW: U13 teams used the small (gym-sized) Dragons equipment bag.
- NEW: U11/12 teams received new nets. Minor damage identified.
- NEW: All U9 - U10 teams to received 1 junior net with Velcro straps as regular equipment.
- Cancellation of the official game ball for all age groups
- Some donations (20 large bags of uniforms) were sent to Haiti South America and Dakar in Africa Thanks to Ibrahim Sow and Medel Felix

3. REPEATS OR CHANGES INTENDED FOR 2016

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 & U8 teams to receive improved 1" diameter goal posts as regular equipment.
- All U9 - U10 teams to receive 1 junior net with Velcro straps as regular equipment.
- ALL U13-U18 teams to receive medal with gold, silver, bronze ribbons at soccer day.
- One pair of goal-keeper gloves to be offered to all mini and youth teams (U9-U18).

NEW:

- The 'Equipment Provided' list will be included in all soccer bags.
- U13 & U18 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.
- U11-U12 each team to receive a net (6'x18') for practice and game. (remove after each game)

Report of the Director, Youth Boys

In 2015, 333 boys aged 13 through 17 played on 18 teams, as shown in the table below.

Level	Final no. of players	No. of Teams	Median no. of players/team
U13/U14	141	8	17.6
U15/U16	120	6	20
U17/U18	52	4	13

Based on this year's registration number, we can estimate the 2016 membership by including the U12s and removing U18s, we get an estimate of 366 players, a jump of 33 players.

Items of Interest

- This year the U18 boys' teams participated in the South Side Soccer League (SSSL) due to low number of teams registered. All the games were exhibition games and did not count in the Dragon's standings.
- Participation in the SSSL took teams outside the Dragons boundaries therefore some travel was required.
- The SSSL feedback was positive from the players, coaches, and parents.
- I would recommend the U18 boys' teams participate in the SSSL next year.

Items to Work On

- Remind players/coaches/parents that soccer at this level is for fun.
- Certify more coaches at this level.

Thank-you

Thank you to the coaches, players, parents, and members of the board.
I hope see a lot of you back.

Guillermo Alvarado
Director, Youth Boys

Report of the Director, Youth Girls

The 2015 season for the youth girls was a little challenging. Due to the low number of girls registered I had to make the decision of having the U 16/17/18 Girls play together which meant I would have 4 teams. The south end team was extremely low with players as the usual but managed to have a great season after all. The teams played once again with the two Nepean teams.

We had 6 teams at the U 14/15 girls division. The teams were extremely competitive and any team could beat another on any given night. Team Spain proved to be the strongest as they won the season and also soccer day.

We only had 4 teams at the U 13 Girls division. The season for these girls went very well even though there was one team which was much weaker than the other 3 teams.

Overall I would say this was a great season of soccer for all my youth girls' teams. Team Brazil U15 also played in the GIST tournament and competed well against these tier 2 teams.

I would like to thank all my volunteers, coaches, parents and players for a great 2015 summer soccer season. Have a great winter and see you all next season.

Luc Beauchamp
U13/15/18 Girls Director.

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	Number of Teams	Average Players/Team	Change From 2014 (Player #'s)	Change From 2014 (%)
U9 Boys	81	6	13	-35	-30%
U10 Boys	103	8	12	-30	-23%
U11 Boys	105	6	17	+25	+31%
U12 Boys	75	4	18	-6	-7%
Total	364	24	15	-46	-11.2%

Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	reg'd	reg'd	Reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd
U9 Boys	151	142	126	144	117	96	112	105	141	116	81
U10 Boys	139	113	110	116	119	93	77	92	89	133	103
U11 Boys	117	100	97	96	102	106	103	84	97	80	105
U12 Boys	122	107	100	100	86	100	77	101	63	81	75
TOTAL	529	462	433	456	424	395	369	382	390	410	364
Overall % change		-12.67	-6.28	5.31	-7.02	-6.84	-6.58	3.52	2.09	5.13	-11.22
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015

From the table above, our registration numbers overall dropped this year for the U9 to U12 Boys (all divisions included). Our numbers drop at the U9, U10 and U12 Boys divisions and climbed at the U11 Boys division.

Team Formation:

Team formation for the U9 to U12 Boys was easier to do this year. This was partly due to our new "special request" policy, especially when requesting to play with friends. Friend request were given only if both friends requested to play on the same team and/or for carpooling reasons.

Coach Recruiting:

Coach recruiting at the U9-U12 Boys is always a challenge every year.

At the start of the team formation (in April), only 10 of the 24 teams had coaches. By equipment distribution day (May 9), 6 teams (25%) were still missing coaches. By the start of the season (May 18), all U9 to U12 Boys teams had coaches.

Soccer Day 2015:

Soccer Day 2015 for the U9B-U12B was held on August 30, 2015 at Hornets Nests fields 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 medal for their participation in the 2014 soccer season.

Comments from coaches and parents:

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

1. Rough playing

Some teams were playing rough. This is an issue that comes up every year, especially with the boys.

We will try to monitor more of the games in the future to make sure that everyone enjoys soccer. We will also ask the referees to monitor the rough play as well.

2. Referees

Some people reported that the referees were not calling fouls.

We will try to mentor the young referees more in the future to make sure that the laws of the game are enforced during the games.

3. Retreat Line

Some coaches and referees were not fully aware and/or did not understand the purpose of the retreat line rule for the U9 to U12 Boys.

Information from the OSA was sent to all the coaches in order to explain them the retreat line rule for their own age group.

Referees were explained the purpose of the retreat line rule and were ask to enforce it as much as possible.

In the future, referees should have a mentor present at the beginning of the season to help the referees in implementing the retreat line rule at the U9 to U12 divisions.

Conclusion

Overall, the 2015 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), Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer

Report of the Director, Mini Girls

In 2015, 237 girls aged 9 through 12 played on 16 teams, as shown in the table below. The U11 and U12 girls divisions were combined due to low numbers.

Level	Initially registered	Final no. of players	No. of Teams
U9	58	71	6
U10	47	57	4
U11	43	53	
U12	46	56	6 (U11/U12 combined)

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

Level	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
U9	163	142	120	91	108	108	83	84	67	62	71
U10	135	143	129	90	81	100	101	85	77	59	57
U11	128	130	129	118	77	80	89	128	74	70	53
U12	133	120	115	123	104	78	83	80	106	80	56
Total	559	535	493	422	370	366	356	377	324	270	237
%change		-4.3%	-7.8%	-14%	-12%	-1%	-2.7%	5.8%	-14%	-16%	-12%

Items of Interest

- Continue to have less players, year after year, although attrition rates as the players age are stable, around 20-25%
- Almost 20% of players registered late
- Three additional "maxi" mini fields were available for U11 and U12 divisions to play 9 vs. 9
- Expect that U11 and U12 will be combined again next year
- Was easier to recruit coaches this year because of the significant resources now available to them (training courses, online information and help from Oscar Vargas); only needed to recruit 6 of 16 coaches

Items to Work On

- There was some confusion in the combined age group (U11/U12) as to which rules to play for offside. In the future, if there are combined age groups the coaches and referees need to be made aware of which rules to follow so there is consistency

Thank-you

It has been my pleasure to organize the teams for the 2015 mini-girls season. Thanks to all the coaches, parents and Dragon's administration who made it possible.

Susan Morris
Director, Mini Girls U9-U12

Report of the Director, Micro U7-U8

By the numbers... 499 players on 48 teams in U7/U8

U7 Girls: 74 participants
U8 Girls: 111 participants
U7 Boys: 134 participants
U8 Boys: 180 participants

Director's Objective...

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

Pre-season...

As usual, finding coaches for some teams required several emails requesting a volunteer before anyone would step forward. I did find Coaches for all teams this year and received very few complaints from parents with regard to their coaches. Limiting friend requests worked out well and it seemed to have a positive impact on team balancing. The OSA coach course for U7/8 was well attended. We are seeing more and more Coaches taking advantage of Coach Incentive program- the percentage of our Coaches who were certified rose significantly from last year.

During the season...

Any issues that arose through the season were dealt with quickly. There were fewer issues with Referees being confused between Micro and Mini rules this year. I suspect this is due to our Head Referee, Jonathan Trottier, spending time during Referee training to specifically cover Micro rules through the Game Leader program. Our U7/U8 teams were mainly grouped into large divisions this year which meant more more travelling to different neighbourhoods within our catchment area. This was, generally, very well received. Parents seemed to prefer it to playing the same teams over and over again.

Post season...

I received wonderful feedback on our Soccer Day. The kids, of course, loved their medals and parents were impressed with the organization of the event. The timing of the games for Micros worked out very well from a logistics standpoint. Coach Appreciation Night was a success once again. Coaches appreciated us providing them an opportunity to meet other coaches and Board members- and the food was great!

Looking ahead to the 2016 season...

I would like to continue to encourage more of our Coaches to become OSA certified for their age groups.

Leah Hutchinson White, Micro Director U7/U8

Report of the Director, Micro U5-U6

Micros division was divided into two groups. Below is a breakdown of this division with respect to the number of players and the number of teams.

Age Group	Number of Players	Number of Teams	Average Players per team
U5	169	16	10
U6	208	26	8

Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	reg'd	reg'd	Reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd	reg'd
5 Boys	123	127	95	127	127	129	95	120	94	108	96
5 Girls	99	101	81	85	74	88	64	81	69	86	73
6 Boys	167	149	158	157	145	173	154	128	154	122	136
6 Girls	92	108	110	104	97	84	86	70	103	73	72
TOTAL	481	485	444	473	443	474	399	399	420	389	377
Overall % change		0.01	-0.08	0.07	-0.06	0.07	-0.16	0.00	0.05	-0.07	-0.03

Reg'd = registered

Team formation:

As this was my first year, I was not sure what to expect. The team formation started off easy but then as time went on requests started coming through, it became difficult. I tried to accommodate as many people as I could without jeopardizing others. I hope that the "friend request policy" will stay in force in terms of only 1 request and both friends must request each other for it to be valid.

Coach Recruiting:

Coach recruiting was a huge challenge. U5 was much easier than U6. I think that people failed to realize that although they are paying a fee for their kids to play, the association is volunteer driven and without volunteers, our kids could not play.

Soccer Season:

During the season, I tried to visit as many coaches and teams as I could on the Friday nights. I tried to maintain contact through email and phone with all of my coaches. I was pleased to receive feedback and suggestions during the season from the coaches.

Recommendation: In the future, I would like to have an "open forum" with the parents on each team as well even though they are free to voice concerns to the office.

Equipment:

There were miscommunications in which age group kept the balls and which ones didn't. Also the nets were not usable in some cases.

Recommendation: Having extra size 3 soccer balls and nets for this age group.

Soccer Day:

Soccer Day 2015 went very well. Even though there were so many teams in my division, I tried to get to all of them and by the time I did, most teams were self-sufficient and running smoothly. The teams played two games and then medals and treats were given to the players.

Comments and recommendations from coaches and parents:

1. Possibility of earlier start times on the Friday nights
2. Possibility of changing the night of play to Saturday morning or afternoon
3. U5 should have the same format as U6 which is to have a proper schedule for the season and soccer day in terms of which team plays which.
4. For soccer day having the teams play other teams from a different area, for example Leitrim playing Potvin

5. Increase the size of the teams so it covers the missing kids during the summer and less coaches would be required
6. Increase to 4 on 4, instead of the 3 on 3 that we have now
7. Would like to have a coaches meeting ahead of time to have everyone on the same page in terms of format, teaching skill, setting up the fields, dealing with difficult kids/parents as well as expectations of coaches and players.
8. Having the drills formatted for example, week 1 dribbling the ball, week 2 passing etc.
9. A lesson in "how soccer works"
10. Having a map of each field showing the areas of play
11. Not going until the end of August for the season

Conclusion:

As it was my first year in this role, I found it challenging at times but rewarding. I would like to thank my fellow executive members for their assistance and words of wisdom as well as the parents who stepped up as coaches.

Overall, the 2015 season was a success as the main feedback that I received was that the children were having fun and at this stage, that is our goal.

Sincerely,

Judith Headley

Director Micro U5-U6, Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer

Report of the Head Referee

General Comments

This year we saw some big changes in the administration of the referees while striving to maintain and further develop many of the programs that we instituted in the past year to improve training, monitoring and developing our younger referees. Jason Gauthier took over as the acting Head Referee as Jonathan Trottier pursued an employment opportunity which required him to leave midseason. Jason took over at the end of July and performed all of the duties of the Head Referee until year's end.

We continued last year's focus on the small sided referee mentoring program having senior, more experience referees help show up to the first assignments of new referee's to help them through their first games and provide a bit of leadership. They would answer questions, show them the process, evaluate and provide feedback at the end of the game. If possible we tried to have the same mentor show up later in the season to provide an actual evaluation of the referee once they had a few games under their belt. This program received excellent feedback from all facets and we will continue to expand this next year. We already have several referees asking about the feasibility of being a mentor next year and as this job is volunteer, we can look at using it to provide volunteer hours for high school students who work with the club. Not only will this improve our referee retention rates, it will allow us to send some of the stronger referees out to help develop solid habits right from day one which should help improve the overall quality of the small sided referees. I also believe that involving more of the referees in the ongoing training will help to develop a sense of camaraderie as the referees often work alone until the higher age groups.

This year we also continued to evaluate referees. Our goal was to evaluate all of the new referees formally and unfortunately we were not able to meet this goal due to coverage and the amount of evaluators. The evaluation team consisted of:

- Jason Gauthier
- Guillaume Carriere-Rigucci
- Nicholas MacLeod

As we did not have as many evaluators as last year it made it difficult to provide the coverage we desired as we also had two of these referees working as the standby referees on various nights during the week. Next year I plan to hold a meeting at the beginning of the year and look for volunteers to perform these evaluations and have dedicated nights each of these referees will do them (i.e. Jim will always have an evaluation on Tuesday nights). While we did not meet our goal of every referee, the program did have a great deal of success improving the overall quality by providing excellent feedback to some of the referees that did require some help, as well as identify some of the stronger referees that we can give more responsibility to next year.

Our club referee pool this swelled from 188 to 213 this year. We had 20 district referees, 57 youth and 127 small sided referees. We did have many referees that did not provide any availability during the summer and did not receive any assignments as such. Scheduling went fairly smoothly except for the tournaments which caused a great strain as many of our referees are also players. As well, nearing the end of the season we struggled on some nights to find enough referees to meet the needs of the competitive leagues and house leagues. Next year, I believe this will be close to the amount needed as long as the referees have a reasonable amount of availability and we do not overload any nights.

We were also able to have a mid-season referee refresher session this year. We had approximately 25 referees show up to this session to discuss some common feedback we received from coaches and ran a small seminar to touch up on some subjects with all of the referees. While it was a success we would have liked a greater turnout. For next year, I recommend that instead of a "mid season pizza party", we have a similar half day clinic where the cheques will be handed out. We

could culminate this meeting with a pizza lunch of something similar but that would provide us with the incentive to increase turnout.

Pre-Season Training:

- Two entry-level referee courses were held and 42 referees were certified
- Two small sided referee courses were held and 38 referees were certified
- A total of 80 referees received their certification from the club this year.
- Various orientations were held during the weeks leading up to the season to explain the Refcentre software and various Gloucester specific procedures.

Bob Moir Referee of the Year Award:

- Mini referee of the year awarded to Juliann Lacasse
- Entry level referee of the year awarded to Youssef Abouyoussef

Comments

I would like to specifically thank all of those who helped me transition into the position of Head Referee this year, specifically Bridget Edmonds, Nick MacLeod, Jonathan Trottier and Chris Wade for always being able to answer questions or being available to help with coverage. As well, Guillaume Carriere-Rigucci for helping to evaluate and providing extra coverage to fill in games. I look forward to a chance to perform the same duties next year.

Jason Gauthier
Interim Head Referee
Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club