

GLOUCESTER DRAGONS RECREATIONAL SOCCER



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
1-5510 Canotek Road, Gloucester, ON

MINUTES

1.0 Roll call

Present:

Adrian Movileanu, Director U7-8	Jason Robinson, Director U5-6
Bill Coleman, Director of Operations	Jim Hunker, Director, Youth Boys
Currie Rowe, Secretary	Leah Hutchison-White, Director, Mini Girls (9-12)
David Lowe, Chair	Michel Beaulieu, Director, Mini Boys (9-12)
Guillermo Alvarado, Registrar	Rémi Beaudin, Director, Equipment and Facilities
Jason Gauthier, Head Referee	Thane Oliver, Dragons coach

Regrets:

James Luck, outgoing treasurer	Valentina Nedelcheva, incoming treasurer
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2.0 Approval of agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved.

Moved by Bill Coleman

Seconded by Adrian Movileanu

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of minutes from 2016 and 2017 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2016 AGM be approved.

Moved by Jason Gauthier

Seconded by Adrian Movileanu

CARRIED

Motion: That the minutes of the 2017 AGM be approved.

Moved by Adrian Movileanu

Seconded by Jim Hunker

CARRIED

4.0 Chairperson's address

David Lowe provided a brief summary of the 2018 highlights, including the news that the Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club had received the 2018 Ontario Soccer Club Development Award for Jason Gauthier's work with our referee mentorship program. The year's other highlight was a very successful community practice with the Ottawa Fury, where more than 300 Dragons players got to meet, scrimmage and get autographs from the Fury players.

5.0 Directors' reports

The directors' full reports are available on the website.

6.0 Financial report

James Luck was unable to attend but provided a financial report with the numbers as of year-end (unaudited). David noted the drop in registration revenues due to our drop in registration numbers again this year.

7.0 Appointment of auditors

The board decided to request quotes from the auditors of our sister clubs (Hornets and Seniors) in addition to an auditor James had recommended (Ray Thomas). An estimate from our current auditor will also be sought.

8.0 Other business

8.1 New business

Michael Machargo dropped in and was presented with his coach of the year award for the U4-U6 division. David Lowe presented the David Bowyer Volunteer of the Year award to Michel Beaulieu, director of mini boys.

8.2 Election of directors

The following candidates were acclaimed in the respective positions.

Position	Elected	Candidate or incumbent	Term End	2018 AGM Status
Chair	2018	Bill Coleman	2020	Acclaimed
Director, Operations	2018	Guillermo Alvarado	2020	Acclaimed
Director, Marketing	2018	Leah Hutchison-White	2020	Acclaimed
Treasurer	2018	Valentina Nedelcheva	2020	Acclaimed
Secretary	2018	Currie Rowe	2020	Acclaimed
Registrar	2017	Guillermo Alvarado	2019	continues 2-year term
Director, Equipment	2018	Rémi Beaudin	2020	Acclaimed
Coach Development	2018	Thane Oliver	2020	Acclaimed
Director, Youth Boys	2018	Jim Hunker	2020	Acclaimed
Director, Youth Girls	2018	Leah Hutchison-White	2020	Acclaimed
Director, Mini Boys	2017	Michel Beaulieu	2019	continues 2-year term
Director, Mini Girls		vacant		
Director, Micros 7-8	2017	Adrian Movileanu	2019	continues 2-year term
Director, Micros 5-6	2018	Jason Robinson	2020	Acclaimed

Note: Currie Rowe expressed interest in the position of director of mini girls. She will inform the board of her decision by the next meeting.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the 2018 AGM.

Moved by Bill Coleman

Seconded by David Lowe

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

We certify that these minutes were approved on:

_____ Date of approval

_____ Name

_____ Signature

_____ Name

_____ Signature

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

In 2018, 1,563 children played soccer on 111 teams. For comparison purposes, here are the registration numbers for the five previous years. As the table shows, we continue to experience a drop in the number of players. We implemented a marketing campaign this year to try to counter this slide, but it met with limited success.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Boys	1,243	1,222	1,243	1,188	1,007	883
Girls	1,010	951	831	795	754	680
Total	2,253	2,173	2,074	1,983	1,761	1,563
% difference	-4.4	-3.5	-4.6	-4.4	-11.2	-11.2

2018 Highlights

- The Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club received Ontario Soccer's Club Development Award in 2018 for our match official mentorship program, which was established by our head referee Jason Gauthier.
- We hosted a community practice with the Ottawa Fury: more than 300 Dragons players showed up to meet the Fury players, scrimmage with them, and sign autographs.
- We celebrated the men's World Cup by naming our teams after participating countries. Our year-end medals also incorporated the World Cup theme.
- We continued to participate in the Fury Fanatics program, which was modified this year to offer \$5 tickets to players 14 and under.
- Together with the Hornets, we organized an OGSC day at the Fury. Our players got to walk out onto the field with the Fury players.
- We organized three Ontario Soccer coaching clinics: Fundamentals, Learn to Train, and Soccer for Life. Our coaches can take these courses for free.
- We ran four referee clinics for new referees.
- 46 of our 111 head coaches (41%) were fully certified. Several others completed the Respect in Sport certification only. We continue to encourage coaches to become certified by offering free coaching courses.
- Teams from Ottawa Internationals joined our league at U14 and U16. At U18, the Dragons, the Internationals and Cumberland made a combined league.
- Our two Soccer Days were successfully held at the end of August.

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 Adam, without whom we could not function.

Yours in soccer,

David Lowe, Chairman, Gloucester Dragons

REPORT, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

The Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer club has enjoyed another successful season. While we continue to see a decline in player registrations, the quality of our soccer 'product' remains excellent.

In 2018 we rented 42 different fields from the City of Ottawa and 3 fields from public schools in the Gloucester area to accommodate all of our games. With the reduction in registrations over the past number of years, we determined that the club could return several fields which we cancelled our rental contracts for 8 fields we were not using, resulting in a savings of \$3,423. We anticipate not requiring more than 37 fields for future seasons, so these savings will be ongoing.

We did not implement any special projects this year. The project to build a fence behind the goal at Carriere field was approved for 50% funding by the city, but we have not finished collecting letters of support from the community and city councillor in order to proceed. If the board chooses, this project can be pursued next season.

Thank you to Bridget Edmonds for her continued excellence managing the myriad administrative activities of our club and to Adam and Jason for building and managing a referee program which is the model for Ontario Soccer.

Thank you,
Bill Coleman

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual (Audited)	2018 Budge
REVENUES			
Registration	324,000	312,234	330,00
Sponsorship	-	1,150	
Interest & Other	4,000	2,622	
	328,000	313,706	330,00
EXPENDITURES			
Soccer operations			
EODSA, OSA, CSA fees	30,000	25,884	26,00
Uniforms	55,000	49,153	50,00
Soccer equipment	15,000	2,358	10,00
Equipment Distribution and storage		899	
Medals, trophies and awards	17,000	12,269	15,00
Facilities and fields	70,000	64,756	67,99
Referee costs	47,000	40,952	42,00
Development and training	4,000	2,980	5,00
Cup days and tournament costs	2,500	2,883	3,00
Administrative costs			
Admin Services and Salaries	44,000	42,995	45,50
Depreciation	13,000	13,951	14,00
Bank Charges and Interest			-
Insurance	6,500	6,379	6,50
Office expenses	4,500	5,980	6,57
Audit and Legal	6,500	7,458	7,50
Registration costs	8,700	8,465	8,70
Rent	30,000	30,160	30,16
Translation	-		-
Marketing and Public Expenses			
Advertising and Marketing	5,000	1,605	10,00

REPORT, REGISTRAR

Registration Numbers

In 2018, the Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer (**GDRS**) club registered 1563 players, divided into 117 teams from U4 to U18. It is a drop of **-10%** from 2017, in spite of increasing the advertising budget.

Here are the top 5 age groups that grew/shrank from 2017:

GREW		Players gained from 2017	SHRANK		Players lost from 2017
U5 girls,	+66%	36	U15 girls,	-70%	39
U5 boys,	+37%	37	U18 boys,	-50%	13
U15 boys,	+37%	14	U17 boys,	-48%	22
U11 boys,	+31%	28	U6 boys,	-42%	58
U17 girls,	+30%	8	U12 boys,	-39%	31

sportgo lite

The **GDRS** partnered with a Canadian company, *sportgo lite*, to help our coaches prepare their practices and keep track of game/practice attendance and who will bring snacks. *sportgo lite* had hoped that we would register all our players/teams into the system, this was not done due to privacy concerns and the board of directors decided to let the coaches opt-in to register with *sportgo lite*. Therefore, only a small number of teams used it (only 23 teams registered). The overall response received was positive with only a few small issues, and 1 user did not like the app at all.

As the registrar and a U16G coach, I found it very useful. I would recommend that we continue with the *sportgo lite* partnership for next year and I would like to continue to be the liaison between *sportgo lite* and our users.

Walk-in Registrations

The **GDRS** usually has 2 walk-in registration dates, however in 2018 it was decided to only have 1 date, Saturday March 24th from 9am until 1pm, at the Dragon's office on Canotek road, we received 1 registration.

I recommend that we do not have any more walk-in registration dates, as attendance is too low.

e2esoccer.com

The **GDRS** also continued to use e2esoccer.com as our registration website. The main issue this year was learning the new e2e registration system, it had a few hiccups that were fixed promptly, thanks to Bridget.

I recommend that we continue to use e2esoccer.com as our registration website.

Note: OSA is **forcing** all the Ontario soccer clubs to use SportsEngine as their new registration platform, therefore e2e might not be needed in 2019, this will be determined in next months.

Thank You

It amazes me how 13 VOLUNTEERS (and our wonderful office manager: Bridget) can give up their personal time to run this organization and provide such a wonderful service to our community.

Thank you to all the board members who have worked so hard this year to give the experience of soccer to so many kids.

Guillermo Alvarado
Registrar 2018

REPORT, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2018

- Returned soccer equipment was removed from soccer bags and placed into bins for winter storage on August 28 to 30, 2018. Approx. 10 % of equipment returned is damaged and will need replacement for next season
- Laundry and dry cleaning (pinnies and goal keeper shirts) was done September 5th sorting is underway, this process takes about a month.
- There are 15 sets of new uniforms available for the 2018 season.
- Soccer nets on Potvin fields will remain up over the winter again this year. 2 nets at Potvin will need to be repaired/ replaced in the spring 2019
- 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 2018 SEASON

- Repeat: Each U5 Mini player was given a new Dragons soccer ball to keep.
- Repeat: 6 nets repaired & 5 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 U5 and up
- Repeat: U5 to U12 teams will be receiving medals at the end of season.
- Repeat: U13 and 15 boys and girls received medal with gold, silver & bronze ribbons to represent winning position. and trophies for league champions, no medals for contender teams
- Repeat: U13 teams used the small (gym-sized) Dragons equipment bag.
- Repeat: U11/12 teams received new nets Minor damage identified.
- Repeat: All U9/10 teams to receive 1 junior net with Velcro straps as regular equipment.
- Some donations (14 large bags of uniforms and soccer balls) were sent to Haiti. Thanks to Medel Felix

3. REPEATS OR CHANGES INTENDED FOR 2019

AGAIN:

- A senior net for all U13 - U18 complete with small blue soccer bag (part of standard equipment).
- All U9 - U10 teams to receive 1 junior net (16x6) with Velcro straps as regular equipment.
- ALL U13-U16 teams received medal with gold, silver, bronze ribbons at soccer day.
- One pair of goal-keeper gloves to be offered to all mini and youth teams (U7-U18).
- The 'Equipment Provided' list will be posted on website.
- 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.
- U7 - U18 will receive practice pinnies (10 per team) as part of regular equipment.
- U11-U12 each team to receive a net (18x6') for practice and game.(remove after each game)
- U7 & U8 Boy & girls received new 5'x8' nets complete with frame (remove after game)

NEW:

- No medals for U-17-18 boys & girls this year
- U-5 and U-6 were given 2 pug nets this year
- U-6 Mini player were given a new Dragons soccer ball to keep

Remi Beaudin,
Director, Equipment and Facilities

REPORT, YOUTH BOYS

There were **210** youth boys playing soccer this season.

U13/14 – 5 teams

U15/16 – 4 teams

U17/18 – 2 teams

Items of interest

- team sizes were very good this year, but the overall numbers of teams dropped
- overall attendance in the U13--U18 bracket dropped from 243 in 2017 to 210 in 2018. A large number of these dropped out at age 17/18.
- there was no team from the Leitrim area at the U15/16 level or the U17/18 level
- in order to facilitate a league at the U17/18 we joined forces with Cumberland and Ottawa internationals. This was a success. As well, the Ottawa Internationals had one team play with us at each of the U13/14 and the U15/16 level, this increased the level of interest for our players and was also a success.

Things to work on for next season

- should work with the Ottawa Internationals and Cumberland to create a league again for next year at the U17/18 level.
- need to think of ideas on how to keep older youth involved in soccer
- team balancing: the U13-16 coaches were asked to rate their players in order to help balance the teams next year. There was a good response from coaches for this request. Will implement a system of team balancing for the next season.

Thank You

Many thanks to the Dragon's administration, all the coaches and parents involved in making this year's soccer season possible and successful!

Jim Hunker,
Director, Youth Boys

REPORT, YOUTH GIRLS

In 2018 the youth girls' division had a total of 182 players, a 24% drop from 2017 (58 fewer players). We had two U18 teams, three U16 teams, and four U14 teams. This year we partnered with Ottawa Internationals at U14 (1 team), U16 (2 teams), and with Cumberland United at U18 (2 teams). It seems that all three clubs are struggling to field enough teams for their youth girls' divisions.

More focus should be given to player recruitment for youth girls and continued cooperation with Cumberland United and the Internationals is recommended.

While player and coach satisfaction were high again this year, several coaches raised unbalanced teams as an issue they hope the board could address. To help improve team balance for next season, all coaches rated their players (i.e., a – highly skilled, b – playing at the right level, c – struggles at this age group) as one of the criteria for setting teams next year. Hopefully this will help resolve the issue.

Thank you to all of the coaches and assistants for their commitment to quality coaching and to having fun! I hope that many of the coaches return next year to continue supporting their teams.

Thank you,
Bill Coleman

REPORT, MINI BOYS

Mini Boys were divided into two 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 2017 (Player #'s)	Change From 2017 (%)
U9 Boys	87	12	14	1	+1.16%
U10 Boys	80			-12	-13.04%
U11 Boys	88	7	18	+28	+46.67%
U12 Boys	36			-31	-46.27%
Total	291	19			-4.59

Age	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
U9 Boys	144	117	96	112	105	141	116	81	145	86	87
U10 Boys	116	119	93	77	92	89	133	103	73	92	80
U11 Boys	96	102	106	103	84	97	80	105	90	60	88
U12 Boys	100	86	100	77	101	63	81	75	80	67	36
Total	456	424	395	369	382	390	410	364	388	305	291
Overall % Change	5.31	-7.02	-6.84	-6.58	3.52	2.09	.5.13	-11.22	6.59	-21.39	-4.59

From the table above, our total registration numbers were lower than last year for the U9 to U12 Boys (all divisions included). Our numbers were slightly lower at the U9-U10 Boys combined division and about the same for the U11-U12 Boys combined division.

Team Formation:

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

This year, the U11 and U12 Boys divisions were combined because of the low number of players at the U11 and U12 Boys divisions. All teams had U11 and U12 players.

This year, the U9 and U10 Boys divisions were combined as well to have a certain number of teams. If the 2 age groups would not have been combined, one division would have had only 4 teams and the other 8 teams. When combined, the U9-U10B division had 12 teams. All teams had U9 and U10 players.

Coach Recruiting:

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

By equipment distribution day, all teams had coaches or people sharing coaching and/or managing responsibilities. By the start of the season all U9 to U12 Boys teams had coaches or had someone to take care of the teams.

Participation to the 2018 WOSC (West Ottawa Soccer Club) RepFest for the U12 Boys division

This year, our organization received an invitation to have teams participate in the 2018 WOSC RepFest for the U9 to U12 divisions. After surveying the U12 Boys teams, there was just enough interest at the U12 Boys to make a team.

The interested U12 Boys players were combined in one team. A total of 12 players went to the Festival. The coach of U12B Team Germany, Thane Oliver, took care of the players making sure they were all welcomed onto 1 team and that all players had the same uniform for the Festival.

The players had a lot of fun at the Festival and enjoyed playing with teams that they never played before and from different soccer associations. They played competitive teams.

Participation to the OISC (Ottawa International Soccer Club) Festival for the U12 Boys division

The Dragons Organization was offered by the OISC DSP Festival organizers to participate in their U12 Boys Festival in August.

Players from several teams were interested in participating in 2018 OISC DSP Festival on August 12. These players were combined into 1 team, so they could participate in the Festival. The team was composed of 11 players. Again, the coach of the U12B Team Germany, Thane Oliver, took care of the players making sure they were all welcomed onto 1 team and that all players had the same uniform for the Festival. The team played 3 games in a 7v7 format.

The team had lots of fun at the Festival.

This Festival was more enjoyed by the players than the WOSC Festival as the team played other recreational teams at the U12 Boys division.

This is something that should continue next year in collaboration with OISC.

Soccer Day 2018:

Soccer Day 2017 for the U9B-U12B was held on August 25, 2018 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. Most 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 2018 soccer season.

Comments from coaches and parents:

During 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.

Conclusion

Overall, the 2018 season was quite a success at the U9B-U12B divisions. The philosophy of the LTPD is still well received by the coaches and parents. The players learned soccer skills while having lots of fun with friends.

Some players had a chance to participate on Festivals. This gave them a chance to play teams for other organizations.

I would like to thank all the people and volunteers for their hard work in making sure that the players and parents enjoy themselves. Also, I would like to thank all board members and our Office staff for their hard work in making this soccer season an enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

Michel Beaulieu
Age Group Director U9-U12 Boys
Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer

REPORT, MINI GIRLS

By the numbers...

In 2018, 212 girls from ages 9-12 played on 14 Gloucester Dragons teams. We had 115 players at U9/10 and 97 at U11/12. This is down from 2017 which saw 237 players in this age group.

Director's Objective...

As always, my objective as a Director is to ensure that our participants, whether they are a player, parent or coach, thoroughly enjoy their season of soccer.

Pre-season...

I had no issues finding coaches in this age group this year. We, do, still have a significant number of players registering in May which makes timely team formation challenging. At U12, up until the very last minute, it was a strong possibility that teams at this age group would be playing 7v7, instead of 9v9. There were enough last minute registrations to make it work and the teams were still reasonably sized. Teams were quite full at U10, as well.

During the season...

There were no major issues at this age group, aside from personality clashes between coaches. I received few parent complaints about coaches and lots of compliments! Teams seemed to be quite balanced this year, which is always a plus. Generally, I received excellent feedback on our referees. Any issues that arose were handled efficiently by our Head Referee and our Board.

Post-season...

Soccer Day went smoothly and, from my perspective, was very well organized. That day, I was approached by several parents and coaches who told me how pleased they were with their season. Most negative issues I heard about were more focused on weather interference during the season or personality clashes between coaches rather than problems with the Dragons organization. I did take note of some constructive feedback from parents and coaches to bring forward to the Board at our annual planning meeting.

Looking ahead to 2019...

Next year, I would like to continue to encourage our coaches to take the OSA approved course for their age group as a means to achieve our future goal of having 100% of our coaches certified. I would like to continue with the positive work we have begun implementing strategies to increase our referee retention and work toward the Dragons having a reputation as a positive employer for the young people in our community. I would like to find ways to encourage our membership to register in April, rather than waiting until May.

As always, it was a pleasure to be involved with this organization,

Leah Hutchinson White
Gloucester Dragons Volunteer
U9-U12 Girls Age Group Director

REPORT, MICROS U7-U8

Season Objective

We at the Dragons want to ensure that every kid that desired to play within this age group was able to play and have fun in the process. We were able to fill our teams to capacity with a handful of late signups and nobody was turned away from the Dragons at the U7 and U8 level.

Teams/Players

While registrations continue to trend downward due to various factors, we were able to field the planned number of 32 total teams filled almost to capacity. The U7 group was unbalanced with 9 teams in the Boys division (100 players) and 7 teams in the Girls division (76 players) while the U8 group was well balanced with 8 teams for each gender (84 boys and 81 girls). Teams were named after World Cup participating teams and that created additional excitement as our players followed their "parent" team throughout June and July. All kids that signed up were placed on teams, except 3 boys at the U7 level that were on the waiting list before deciding to pursue other activity avenues before being assigned on a team. All teams were balanced based on the kids address location, age, gender, and friend requests. U7 is the age when boys and girls move on from the co-ed style into gender specific teams. It was generally acknowledged by parents and coaches that the level of commitment, focus and quality of training and play improves as the kids tend to become more involved in the team dynamics and chemistry.

Schedule

At these age groups, each team is assigned a home field where they host have of their scheduled games. The other half of the schedule, they travel to visit the other teams in their age bracket. At the U7 level, due to odd number of teams for each gender, we had to implement a "bye" week for the odd team each week. Some teams chose to extend their practice time, some organized a kids vs parent games while others spent their bye at the ice cream shop. Overall, it did not negatively impact the schedule but the goal for the future is to ensure we have an even number of teams to maximize the playing time for each team. The round robin schedule worked well, and even though scores are not recorded at this level, we were able to identify the level of each team and ensure that their Soccer Day schedule paired them up against a similarly skilled team. Special thanks again to Jeff Dunlop for his flexibility to generate a schedule for these age groups as requirements changed throughout the preseason. Also thanks to our Head Referee Jason Gauthier and his assistant Adam for delegating referees that did not miss a single assignment all season. It is worth mentioning that there were no concerns with the fields used this year, even if the city of Ottawa cancelled access a couple of times due to flooding issues. With a summer that fluctuated from droughts to flooding, we have had to cancel 3 different dates at various locations. We are looking into setting up a "make up" date for next season where teams could reschedule a postponed game later in the season.

Coaching

Volunteers make up 100% of our coaching staffs and while returning coaches commit early, it is always a challenge to find coaches for every team before the start of the season. This year was especially challenging with a few of our previous coaches moving on to other clubs, but we were able to fill all coaching positions the week before the start of the season. Two teams chose to use a 'coaching by committee' approach and from the feedback I received, they were well run and some of those part time coaches are looking forward to a full-time position next season. Personally, I would like to see more coaches take the OSA certification courses going forward as we aim for at least 50% certified goal as a club.

Equipment

Equipment distribution day went very well with more than 60% of teams picking up their equipment at our distribution center. The pre-packaged bags included everything the coaches needed throughout the season, there were no complaints. The quick assembly nets were a hit again this year once coaches figured out how to assemble them. Distributing metal pegs with the nets will be a priority next season. The equipment bags were returned by all teams at the end of all Soccer Day activities.

Soccer Day

Soccer Day 2018 took place at Potvin on Saturday, August 24th for the U7 and U7 age groups. While I was unable to attend due to personal reasons, I understand that everything went smoothly and most importantly all kids received medals. All teams played two games that day while enjoying guest appearances by the Ottawa Fury mascot and the customary post game treats.

Ottawa Fury Community Practice was one of the highlights of the season for the kids in the U7-U8 age groups and the coaches of our teams. They attended en-masse and had the opportunity to mingle, play and run with professional soccer players at our fields at Potvin. This is an event that should become an annual tradition, it is not only entertaining and brings the community together, but it is also educational for our coaches and for the players.

Challenges

Late signups always play havoc with team assignments and balancing as well as scheduling. Delays in our marketing campaign delivery also casted doubt over the number of signups expected. Friend requests are great when they are done properly but there are some parents that take advantage of the system causing problems in the team formation process. Coaches certification is also a tight window, by the time we have all our coaches in position, they have very little time to decide if they can take their age specific course, especially those courses that conflict with the Ottawa Race Weekend or those taking place during the Victoria Day weekend. Leitrim based players are also facing significant challenges due to rush hour travel for their away games for these age groups, it is an issue we are aware of and looking to find a solution for.

I would like to thank my fellow volunteer board members and all the volunteer coaches for all their hard work to ensure that Dragon Soccer continues to be the Gold Standard in Ottawa kids recreation soccer. Special thanks to Bridget and Adam for running things smoothly in the office.

If anybody is looking for additional information about our U7/U8 activities this season or for next season, please contact me at directormicro7-8@dragonsoccer.ca.

Sincerely,
Adrian Movileanu
Micros U7-U8 Group Director
Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer

REPORT, MICROS U4 TO U6

Season Objective

The objective was to work to ensure that every child that wanted to play within the u4 to U6 age groups was able to play and have a positive experience.

Teams/Players

For all U4 to U6 there were a total of 319 participants for the season. The U4/5 played in a combined/mixed division, and the U6 played in a separate division.

Registrations for the U4 (no previous year comparison) were at 61 kids. Although there are lots of discussions around the age group being too young, it is important to highlight that out of these 61 kids only 2 withdrew - This could be seen as a positive indication that there is a demand for kids wanting and enjoying playing soccer at this age. At the U5 level we saw an increase of 19 children participating over the previous year for a total of 134 - an increase of 16%, while at the U6 level we saw a decrease of 87 kids, down to 126 from 213, a decrease of 41%. Given it was a World Cup year, teams were named after different countries. At the given age groups, boys and girls play together in a non-segregated format. We were able to place 38 boys and 21 girls that were U4, 77 boys and 57 girls that were U5 and 82 boys and 44 girls that were U6. The teams were created based on age, location, gender, friend requests and spoken language.

Schedule

The U4/5 age groups were distributed among 3 locations: Potvin, Father Ward/North Vineyard and Leitrim. The U6 were distributed among 2 locations Father Ward/North Vineyard and Leitrim. In Leitrim there was only 1 team for U4/5 and 1 team for U6. Extra pinnies were provided to allow the children to play scrimmages against each other.

This year, since the field allocation in Orleans was changed from the previous year after the rosters had started to be built, as a result there were some players that needed to travel from the Orleans area to the Beaconhill area. Although the total difference park to park was only 10 minutes this proved to be of concern to a reasonable number of parents. Also, we had a lower number of teams than expected at the U6 level and placed all the non-Leitrim area children at one location. The reasoning here was to ensure not only a variety of teams faced, but also to ensure enough players to share amongst teams when a large number of kids from one team may be missing. Again, this resulted in some concerns from some parents in the BeaconHill area with respect to travel.

Coaching

Given that the coaches are all volunteers, it can be challenging to find someone to step-up at times. At the U4/U5 and U6 levels, there were over 26 teams and most parents that indicated that they were willing to help their child's team agreed to coach where needed. As a result, there was a very small number of parents required and all teams at the start of the season had a coach at the start of the season. I believe the coaching 101 session was very beneficial for the new coaches. Of these 26 teams we had 8 coaches who took both the "Fundamentals" and the "Respect in Soccer coaches" and 11 that took either one or the other of the courses. It would be good to find a way to work to increase the percentage of coaches that take both courses to climb closer to the 50% mark fully certified.

Equipment

Equipment pickup went well with a good amount picking up their bags at the equipment day itself and many most of the remaining picked them up at the office during the coaching 101 session. I believe we should, when budgets allow for it, continue to provide soccer balls to the children in these age groups to keep.

General Recommendations

1. *If the numbers/location allow for it, we could look into having a separate division for the U4s*

2. *At this age group there is a benefit to determine fields with a high degree of likelihood before team formation starts – late March/early April if possible.*
3. *An order of preference of where parents want their child to play on registration for this age group would be beneficial (1 to 3). Areas to choose from could be between Beacon Hill/Blackburn, Convent Glen/Chapel Hill South and Leitrim. A less attractive alternative could be a check box for area of preference at this age group without necessarily naming a field or making guarantees of location would be beneficial.*
4. *I believe standardizing dates across all age groups when teams are prepared, coaches informed, etc. would be beneficial to set parent and coach expectations year to year. I believe coaches should have a team in hand sometime the week prior to the fields being available for our use (even if just for practices). The club pays for these fields and should take advantage of this resource.*

Jason Robinson
Micros U4, U5 and U6 Age Group Director
Gloucester Dragons Recreational Soccer

REPORT, HEAD REFEREE

General Comments

The 2018 season was another success for the Gloucester Soccer officials with the continued growth of our referee mentorship program as part of our Long Term Official Development initiatives. This resulted in the Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club winning the Ontario Soccer award for Match Official Development. We had several well received tournaments and continued to evaluate, train, and coach our youth referees.

The highlight of the summer was the evolution of our Mentoring program. Over the course of the summer we mentored over 75 sessions and were able to mentor all but 5 of our new referees. The majority of our budget was spent in the first month as was planned to try to ensure a senior referee was present for the first games of our new referees. We were also able to build in some ongoing coaching for existing officials.

This summer also earned some recognition from Ontario Soccer as the Director and Co-ordinator of Match Official Development attended with some senior mentors one of the Gloucester tournaments to see how we've been able to develop a sustainable, in house program to work on referee retention, training, and improving the overall experience for referees at the Grassroots levels. They were able to offer about a dozen more sessions with some of our stronger officials which has led to a small partnership with the OPDL to try and develop a few of our more talented youth referees into the more competitive stream.

This year's recipients of the Bob Moir award for the new referees of the year were Carissa Hawgood for the small sided referees and Kate Sullivan for the Entry-Level.

Pre-Season Training:

- Two entry-level referee courses were held and 30 referees were certified
- Two small sided referee courses were held and 30 referees were certified
- A total of 60 new 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.

Comments

I would like to thank the Board as well as Bridget and Adam for the support this year. Once again, its been a pleasure to act in my role as Head Referee and see the growth of our club and its officials.

Jason Gauthier
Head Referee
Ottawa Gloucester Soccer Club