

STRATFORD YOUTH SOCCER – Annual General Meeting

November 20th, 2018 at the Knights of Columbus Hall

The following board members were in attendance:

Graham Bunting, Mike Vancea, Kevin Machado, Gabrielle Nemeth, Don Herlick, Carla Vancea, Tony Hunter, John DeBoeck, Mike Binns, Todd Steel, Anita Dubé Lynda Sauvé, Julie Leitch.
Regrets were received from Lucy Doney and Tyler McIntosh
Staff members in attendance were Maureen Mitchell and Lori Misuraca.

The Meeting was called to order at 7.05 p.m. by President Graham Bunting

Introduction of Guests and Awards

Male athlete of the year Ethan Hill and members of his family
Female athlete of the year Sierra Sauvé and members of her family
Volunteer of the year was awarded to board member Anita Sauvé

Graham Bunting introduced Jeff Hughes from the SWRSA Board of Directors and thanked him for attending.

Minutes of Previous AGM November 8th, 2016 – Tony Hunter

Moved by Tony Hunter and seconded by John DeBoeck that the minutes of the AGM held November 14th, 2017 are to be approved as distributed. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the 2017 minutes

There were no matters arising

President's Report – Graham Bunting

Graham reported that he was happy to see that the registration numbers had increased by 10% over the previous year.

The new turf field (Cowan Field) was up and running for the season and was well received by the soccer community. It was fully booked and used by all groups. The turf itself should last 12/15 years; replacement cost in today's dollars is approximately \$300,000.00

Registrars Report - Maureen Mitchell

2018 Outdoor: 825 players in total that were placed on 47 House League teams and 18 Travel teams

2017 / 2018 Indoor: 105 Players in total. 78 were in our Indoor programme and 27 were on 2 travel teams

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Machado

Moved by Kevin Machado and seconded by Mike Vancea that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. The motion carried. (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes).

Reports from other committees

Travel Report – Don Herlick

The 2018 travel programme ran successfully this year with minimal issues requiring to be dealt with. Kenny Murphy organized three clinics which used Stratford City FC players to demonstrate and instruct. The clinics were a great success and were well attended.

SYS House League Report – Gabrielle Nemeth and Anita Dubé

SYS House League ran 12 weeks from May 22 to Aug 9 with 555 players compared to last year's 501. Micro (u3 and u4) 117 players on 12 teams, u5 54 players on 6 teams – coached by paid students (Strikers) – minimal parent involvement – this must change in future years. We need to get parents coaching from day 1. The students were not well prepared and were at times coaching way above the skill level of 3 and 4 year olds. Consistent attendance by students was also very poor. Brendon Walkom oversaw most of this program. U6 – 68 players on 6 teams. Parent coaches with paid students assisting newer coaches and during coach absences if needed.

Paid student coaches were on hand to assist with u8 to u14 but were generally underutilized except when a coach was needed due to an absence.

Boys u8 – 59 players on 4 teams. Parent coaches – no issues

Boys u10 – 61 players on 4 teams. Parent coaches – no issues

Boys u14 – 55 players on 4 teams. Parent coaches. Fields were made a little smaller in order to have smaller sided games. Age division was changed from u13 to u14 in order to add players.

Senior boys – there was no division as there were only 11 registrants in April. A few 14 year old stayed in the system by playing in the u14 division. Continue to offer senior boys in future years.

Girls u9 – 56 players on 4 teams. As last year, u8, u10 and u13 were combined to u9 and u13. No issues.

Girls u13 – 46 players on 4 teams. No issues.

Senior Girls – 39 players on 3 teams. The start of the season saw 4 smaller teams playing on the smaller fields at Festival Hydro Community Park. There was pushback from players and coaches which led to combining the players into 3 teams and playing at the SERC diamond field. It was very difficult to make balanced teams not due to skill level but rather poor attendance by players. The final games at Cowan field were exceptionally good. The Beacon Herald published weekly scores and soccer superstars including sponsors. They also covered final day.

Final day was held on Saturday August 11 at Festival Hydro Community Park and included three inflatable rentals and a cotton candy machine from Party Supply. Hot dogs were once again donated by Harvey's and served by the Kiwanis Club.

Referee Report – Mike Vancea

Mike Vancea explained that the referee duties were split up this year with Holly Deighton doing the scheduling and Jan Bolhuis taking on the role of mentoring the young referees.

SSA Report – Mike Vancea

The turf field (Cowan Field) is up and running and is lighted. Vancea Field is also lighted, and even though we are down a field in numbers, the addition of lights has actually increased the hours available.

The club house is in the process of being renovated. Vic-West steel has donated the siding (a nice bright red).

The washrooms are also being renovated and will be fully wheel-chair accessible.

It was hoped that the trail would be finished but the unusually wet weather this fall has put that off to next year. When the trail is finished there will be various fitness stations throughout and all fields will be fully accessible by wheel-chair.

Minor Sports Council – Kevin Machado

All sports are reporting increased participation numbers which is good to see. The facilities available to Stratford residents are all of very good quality and may have some impact on the increase in numbers.

The Minor Sports Banquet is April 16, 2019. Resumes for the award winners are due by mid-February.

Awards Presentation

Graham Bunting presented the awards to Ethan Hill, Sierra Sauvé and Anita Dubé and thanked the award winners for their dedication to the game.

2016 Elections - Maureen Mitchell was election Chair.

(Roberts Rules of Order do not require a seconder to nominations and a person may nominate themselves.)

Nominated for President for a two year term

Graham Bunting	nominated by Mike Vancea	Accepted
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Nominations for Directors-at-large for two year terms - 7 positions

Kevin Machado	nominated by Tony Hunter	Accepted
John DeBoek	nominated by Todd Steel	Accepted
Anita Dubé	nominated by Mike Vancea	Declined
Don Herlick	nominated by Gabrielle Nemeth	Accepted
Carla Vancea	nominated by Lynda Sauvé	Accepted
Lynda Sauvé	nominated by Carla Vancea	Accepted

Nominations for Directors-at-large for one year terms - 3 positions

There were no further nominations. The board is empowered to appoint directors to fill vacant positions until the next Annual or special General Meeting. Several previous members who were not present have indicated that they would be prepared to serve on the board and will be appointed.

Mike Vancea thanked Gabrielle Nemeth for her years of dedicated service to Stratford Youth Soccer in various roles as board member; President; Head of Travel; and head of House League and assured her that we would be the poorer for her absence. Gabby indicated she would still be in a position to help out particularly at tournaments.

Other business

Jeff Hughes gave a brief outline and his duties as a member of SWRSA. He discussed the new structure of Ontario Soccer (used to be OSA) and indicated that the new 12 member Board of Directors will be better able to make decisions than the previous 21 member board which had reps from all districts. The Directors in the old system were inclined to focus on issues affecting their own district and found it difficult to agree.

Jeff also indicated that there were Leagues operating outside the OS structure and that it was an ongoing item of discussion.

Moved by Mike Binns and seconded by Julie Leitch that the meeting adjourn at 8.12 p.m. Carried.