

# **SOCCER RHODE ISLAND AGM MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2008**

**This meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.**

**1) Roll call was taken: All SRI Board members were present except for YSRA Tim King. Those Associations/Clubs not present were as follows:** East Providence, Exeter West Greenwich, Narragansett, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Warren.

**2) President's Report:**

- a) Special guest Joe Cummings who is the General Manager of the Boston Breakers Women's Professional Soccer Team is here to speak to the Council. Joe spoke to the Council and in closing stated that Christine Lilly will be back to play for them after she has her baby.
- b) Larry recognized the new Presidents: Stu Gaskell from Bristol, Art Yarumian from Coventry, Candice Girard from North Smithfield, David Covell from Ocean State , Bob Sequillante from Smithfield, Marc Comtois from Warwick soccer and Al Resendes from West Warwick.
- c) Larry said "That this would be his last meeting to have to run."
  - 1) He said thank you to all those who made the Coach's Expo a success.
  - 2) Larry congratulated all the honorees who were inducted.
  - 3) Larry asked "If anyone present was at the Expo and received a copy of the Fred Factor and if they had read it yet?"
    - 4) Four items were quoted from the book?
      - "Do the right for the right reasons."
      - "Often it only takes a small act to make a big difference."
      - "Do what u have always done, but do it better than you have ever done it."
      - "Do the common thing uncommonly well."
    - 5) The accomplishments of SRI are that we now have two office staff people. Back ground checks are being done for all adults to protect our youth. We have the Center Circle Newspaper to keep you informed of events. The implementation of small sided games. A Coach's Expo and dinner.
    - 6) Larry said a big thank you to his wife for supporting him through his eight years as President of SRI. Only two things on Larry's wish list did not get forfeited, State Fields and the increase of Urban Membership.

**3) Membership Report:**

**Has been tabled until later in the meeting.**

**4) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**4a) Competitive Report:**

Steve said a thank you to all who attended the Coach's Expo and dinner. It was because of all of you who made it a success.

**a) National Championship Series State Cup:**

- 1) The draw was held during the Expo.
- 2) The schedule is on the web. All age divisions will have Referees assigned by the state. SRI will only pay the Referee fees for the semis and finals.
- 3) Fields are needed for the semis and finals.

**b) RI Cup:**

- 1) RI Cup ladders are all set and will be on the web by the end of the month.
- 2) This is at the end of the SuperLiga season and is not to be confused with the SuperLiga Championships. SRI runs the SRI Cup.
- 3) Referee fees will be paid for the semis and finals to be held at Smithfield's Deerfield Park on June 21 & June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ted von Gretchen questioned the draw with teams entering and teams changing divisions. The response was that this was a U12 division that was 8 v 8 and 11 v 11 changes. The U16 team dropped out.

#### **4b) Coach's Education Report:**

- a) Oscar said thank you to his coaching staff along with Jim Kelly and Jim McGeer in helping with the Expo.
- b) Comments are welcome and are to be sent to Oscar.
- c) There will be a Director's of Coaches meeting at the end of April. One of the things that are being looked into is for a National D license that will be held over a one weekend period.
- d) There has been expressed interest in refresher courses and this will also be looked into.
- e) There are spots for candidates for a "C" License course. If we can get 25 participants it may be able to be held in RI. Send Oscar an email if you are interested.
- f) Please be aware and let your coaches know that if any coach needs to fulfill their requirements to be able to coach in the spring then an application must be filled out and payment made to SRI and the next available course will be told to them to attend. There must be a commitment from the coach and this is the way to go about it.

#### **4 c & d) Special Programs Reports:**

##### **Top Soccer:**

- 1) A uniform has been established for the Top Soccer players. These uniforms have been done through Score. The Shirt will have the Soccer Rhode Island logo on them.
- 2) The book "Miles and Miles of Smiles" has been approved by Region 1.
- 3) There is a Top Soccer video that can help any Association who would be interested in having a Top Soccer program.
- 4) There is also a coach's course that helps in the teaching of the Top Soccer players and focuses more on the autistic children.

##### **Soccer Start:**

- 1) This is a program that is not so much about the urban program but about any program.
- 2) SRI has assisted Project Goal and other Associations that have been in need.
- 3) There is a couple of Women from the Women's League who are trying to get a program going similar to Project Goal but for these women to be able to play soccer. But what they seem to be facing is the Domestic & ethnic problems.
- 4) Jim spoke with the Latin American President and he said he would be willing to come in and help us talk to these people.

#### **4e) Recreational Report:**

- 1) **The SRI Soccer Spot Festival** for the U8 & U10's will take place on May 31<sup>st</sup> & June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Right now we have Cumberland hosting both Saturday & Sunday. CLCF & Ocean State are hosting for one day. We could use another site for the two days or two more sites for a day each.
- 3) **Kohl's American Cup** will be held at Pawtucket. There is to be two Kohl's trucks provided with games for the kids.

#### **4d) Public Relations Report:**

- 1) As Oscar, Steve and Larry have already said the Expo was again a big success. This will continue on.
- 2) A draw was done for all those Associations & Clubs. The winners were Jamestown, Pawtucket and Smithfield who received a Coach's Expo goodie bag.
- 3) The vendors were happy with the interest in all those who stopped by their booths.
- 4) South County took a room for a two hour time slot to host a coach's clinic for their coaches and Matt from the Revolution did the clinic.

- 5) In everyone's packet there is a voucher for the August 9<sup>th</sup> game at Gillette Stadium to go to the game by bus.
- 6) The deadline for the Center Circle articles is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Get your articles to Rick if you want them included in this edition.

**4e) Olympic Developmental Program:**

- 1) In February the boys 93's, 94's & 95's went to Bermuda
- 2) Veronica Nappoli went to Russia, Victor Para went to Italy and Kevin D'Acastrillo went to Brazil.
- 3) If any team is interested in scrimmaging send an email to Phyllis.

**4h) Youth SRA Report:**

With Tim not present Barbara said that he had a wake to go to tonight and could not be here but he sent her a brief report.

- 1) Right now there are 650 certified Referees in the State.
- 2) There is 50 new grade 8's training in Warwick.
- 3) Jamestown is hosting a re-certification clinic tomorrow night.

Larry introduced Steen Mauricio as the new Senior Referee Assignor (SRA).

Steve also spoke on Tim's behalf:

- 1) Any more additional request for clinics will have a fee of \$250.00 each.
- 2) There will be eight clinics done each year at no cost to the facilities which will consist of two in each district.
- 3) There have been over 13 re-certification clinics this year.
- 4) This is the first year that all adult Referees will have to complete a back ground check on them through the data base.
- 5) If an individual is an Administrator, Coach and or Referee this individual should only have one background check done on them.
- 6) The State Referee Committee will hold Elections and positions on the Board are open at this time. It is to be held at the Warwick Public Library on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- 7) All Association's Referee Assignors need to register and pay a fee to the Federation to be able to assign games. Also, each individual must attend an Assignor's Clinic to become a certified Assignor.

John May asked if an email could be sent out regarding the re-certification of Assignors and where and when the clinic will be.

**4i) District Commissioners Reports:**

**North:** Joe Carreiro had nothing to report.

**South:** Dot Peckham said a welcome to all the new Presidents and she is here if you need her.

**East:** Dennis Flynn: said all pleasant on the east.

**Central:** Mike Ashworth had nothing to report.

**Premier:** Dean Hostetler: There was a meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Expansion will impact the new Premier Commissioner. Most important is to keep communications open with ODP.

**4j) State Administrator's Report:**

- 1) Associations who have past due invoices need to get them paid. New invoices will be going out in April for registrations, background checks, player passes and such.
- 2) Any team who is planning on going to a Tournament is required to do an e-travel 48 hours prior to the Tournament.
- 3) Coach's registrations are to be done once each seasonal year. Coaches & registrars can then go into a coach's record and add a position. This new registration process will also use ChoicePoint.com for background checks, this is the same Company the Federal Government uses. It will allow the office staff to upload the SRI files directly and will eliminate wait-time we are experiencing
- 4) Council meeting dates are in your packets and can also be viewed on the SRI website.

**5) Financial Report:**

A copy of the report is with the file copy of these minutes.

A recap of the report was done. The current proposed budget is at a loss of \$3,900.00 vs. \$6,000.00 from previous years.

**A Motion was made to file the report and seconded.**

**6) Membership Report:**

- a) Steve is not running for re-election into the position of VP of Membership.
- b) Back ground checks continue to move along as does the new sideline passes.
- c) Please let SRI know when and where your AGM's are so that VP of Membership can attend and other representatives you may want from the Board to attend.

**d) New Membership Applications:**

**1) Black Watch RI Premier:**

**A Motion made for the approval of the Black Watch RI Premier application for acceptance and seconded.** After much discussion the Question was called and second, voted on and failed to end the discussion. Refer to Rule 221, Section 1, Part 3. The U12 Girls of Black watch is playing in the National Championship Series for RI and all the other teams of Blackwatch are playing in Mass.

*Larry asked Steve V. to explain the rule:*

*Steve stated: "The rule is not really new, but it was never looked into so deeply. The players must be registered to RI and 50% of the players must play State Cup in the State they reside. What was done was that ay team that was not registered to RI and did not play in RI was not allowed to play State Cup because SRI felt those teams were released to other states and were not eligible to play in RI and that was wrong."*

The question was recalled an asked for a roll call vote to be taken and seconded, and passed without dissent by a voice vote.

**The Motion was voted on by a role call vote and PASSED for the acceptance for Black Watch RI Premier to have a girls program.**

**2) Bayside United:**

**A Motion made to accept Bayside United's application for Girls Premier within their club and seconded.** Some discussion took place. **The Motion was voted on and PASSED by a voice vote for Bayside United to have a girls program..**

**3) Lusitana:**

**A Motion made to accept the Lusitana application for both Boys and Girls and seconded.** Discussion was held. **The Motion was voted on and PASSED by voice vote.**

**4) Tidal Wave:**

**A Motion was made to approve the US Club Soccer Affiliate, Tidal Wave and seconded.** **Amendment to the Motion was to amend their application to Tidal Wave Premier and not US Club and seconded.** The amendment to the Motion was **vote on and Passed by a voice vote.**

**The Motion was voted on with the amendment and PASSED by a voice vote for Tidal Wave to be a Premier Member of SRI.**

**7) New Business:**

- a) **Constitution & By-law changes:** (Copies with the file copy of these minutes)

**1) Article VI, Section 12 Extra Territorial Clubs & Leagues: Proposed by Steve Votolato ;** the deletion of the line Extra territorial clubs shall not be allowed to participate in the SRI State Cup Competition. *This is to put into compliance with US Youth Soccer National Championships Series Policy.* **The Motion was made to accept this proposal ad seconded.** Some discussion took place. **The Motion was voted on and PASSED by a voice vote without dissent.**

**2) Article IX , Page 11, Section 1: Years Elected, Proposed by the SRI Board:** To change the odd years to even and the even years to odd as housekeeping that was not done when the AGM of SRI was moved to March.

**A Motion was made to accept the proposal & seconded.** No Discussion, **the Motion was voted on & PASSED** by a voice vote without dissent.

- 4) **Article IX, Page 11, Section 1: Participation Limits, Proposed by Phyllis Fish:** Add the following paragraph: Once elected to a board position with Soccer Rhode Island, an Officer shall not participate as a board member on any other SRI member youth soccer Association/Club, sanctioned league or club.

**A Motion was made to accept this proposal ad seconded.** Some discussion took place. **The Motion was voted and FAILED** by a voice vote.

5) **Article IX, Page 11, Section 1: Term Limits, Proposed by Phyllis Fish:** Add that each Board member is subject to a term limit of five consecutive terms being ten years in any one position. **A Motion was made to accept this proposal & seconded.** Some discussion took place, a roll call vote was asked for this motion. **The Motion was voted on by role call and FAILED** by lack of a 2/3 majority approval.

6) **Article IX, Page 13, Section 11: Restrictions: Proposed by Phyllis Fish;** New rule to add in 1) No Director/Officer referred to in Article IX, Section 1 may receive compensation (except for reimbursement for expenses) for services as an officer.

**A Motion was made to accept this proposal & Seconded.** Some discussion took place. The Motion was voted on & **PASSED** by a voice vote without dissent.

**b) The Election of Officers:**

Chuck the Nomination Chairperson said that two emails were received and have since been withdrawn. So the slate of Officers seeking election is:

**PRESIDENT:** Steve Votolato

**Secretary:** Pat Votolato

**Vice President of Competitive:** Paul Hosxie

**Vice President of Membership:** Dean Hostetler

**Vice President of Top Soccer & Soccer Start:** Jim Kelly

Chuck asked the Secretary to cast one vote for the ballot of officers. The ballot was cast.

**Larry welcomed everyone into their positions and handed the gavel to the new SRI President: Steve Votolato.**

**8) Miscellaneous Items/Good of the Game:**

*Steve V stated that four teams played in the MLS and out of those four teams there were three teams with RI players on them.*

*Matt McGarry of the WB&G Club asked people to come to the Elks Tri Town Community Center on Bend St. on August 17<sup>th</sup> to have the players join in to the Academy shoot.*

With no further Business to discuss, the following motion was made.

**A Motion was made to adjourn at 9:55 PM and seconded.**

The SRI Secretary, Pat Votolato respectfully submits the five typed pages of the March 31, 2008 SRI AGM meeting minutes for approval at the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Council meeting.