

# **Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club (SASC)**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

### **November 17, 2008**

The meeting was held at the Woodland Vista Swim Club in Los Altos, CA.

The board members present were Masood Mokhtary, Janine Dryden, Bob Carpenter, John Ruckstuhl, Susan Lundberg, George Tharakan, Kat Caturegli, Sandra Todd, Deanne Phillips, Tibor Polgar, Chuck Kluz, and Mark Shustock. Chris Barnes, Susan Grabau and Julie Banks were not in attendance. Elizabeth Johnson, Alison Hlady and Steve Archer (Manager, Roadrunners95) attended the meeting as invited guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Masood Mokhtary (President). Mr. Mokhtary welcomed the group. As the first matter of business, the board reviewed the minutes from the October meeting (held on October 13) and the Annual General Meeting (held on November 6) and unanimously agreed to accept them as presented.

As the first matter of business, Steve Archer introduced himself to the group. He stated that he had attended the session to discuss the topic of player and parent communications and player movement among SASC competitive teams. He indicated that he believed more could be done by the club to assure both of these matters were handled more effectively. Chuck Kluz (Competitive Director) responded to Mr. Archer and led the group in a discussion on the subject. Mr. Kluz pointed out that the SASC's philosophy related to competitive teams was different than many clubs in the area in that it allowed teams to form – and to a large extent - manage themselves by making their own coaching and player personnel decisions. He pointed out that there were no official SASC policies that mandated comp teams to communicate with parents or move players between teams in any systematic and rational method. Rather, these matters were handled informally by the individual teams' parents, players and coaches.

Mr. Kluz recognized the fact that Mr. Archer's concerns had been expressed to the board before by other concerned players, coaches and parents. He stated that they were already pursuing several initiatives to address the situation. These included: (1) increasing the frequency of email communications to players and parents, (2) improving the quality of individual team information posted on the club's website, and (3) helping to bring coaches together to make sensible, mutually agreed upon player personnel decisions.

Mr. Kluz finalized the discussion by pointing out that these initiatives would not only help improve the situation, but they also were consistent with the club's overall philosophy as they left the ultimate responsibility for communications and player movement with the coaches – and not the club.

The next matter discussed was the Sunnyvale Soccer Complex (SSC) playing field. Bob Carpenter (Vice President) reported that the new field was in good overall condition and that the troublesome and persistent weed problem was being actively addressed. He was in the process of obtaining professional advice from several experts as to how to kill the weeds while not harming the new grass. He expressed confidence that the problem would be resolved by the start of the spring season.

Mr. Carpenter then discussed the subject of CISL men's soccer league and a request that had been made by the Britannia Arms men's (adult) club to lease space at the SSC on Sunday mornings for matches. The matter was discussed by the group and opinions were expressed as to whether or not non-SASC adult teams should be allowed to play on the fields as a matter of club policy. Members who favored leasing fields to non-SASC adult teams pointed out that it would represent additional income for the club. Those members who did not favor leasing the fields expressed concerns that the usage would undoubtedly add wear and tear to the playing surfaces, perhaps compromising the fields readiness for the youth teams' spring season.

Tibor Polgar (Referee Director) raised a motion that the SASC should not allow adult teams (other than SASC sponsored squads) to play at the SSC. The motion was seconded by Mark Shustock (Secretary) and passed with a vote of 8 ayes and 3 nays.

Susan Lundberg (Treasurer) then took the floor and brought to the board's attention that the SASC's Medina Fund had accumulated several thousands and had never been utilized. As a result, she was recommending the board move to allocate the funds for usage during post regular season match play by SASC comp teams. The matter was discussed by the group and a motion was raised by Mrs. Lundberg to allocate the funds to SASC teams at upcoming Class and State tournaments. Allocation decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis by the club's Treasurer, Vice President and the Competitive Director. A motion was raised by Mrs. Lundberg to approve this approach. The motion was seconded by Sandra Todd (Recreational Director) and was unanimously approved.

After the vote, Mrs. Lundberg discussed the upcoming SASC financial function reorganization. She reminded the group that she had decided to remain in the SASC Treasurer position but that she was in the process of implementing a comprehensive reorganization of the accounting, financial aid, and cash management functions in order to make her time commitment to the job more "manageable". It should be noted that Mrs. Lundberg has routinely spent over 30 hours per week on SASC financial duties and tasks.

As part of the reorganization, the club was establishing three new executive level positions. These positions would report to the Treasurer and would accept responsibility for handling all day-to-day duties in their respective disciplines. The following individuals had been recruited by Mrs. Lundberg to fill the positions:

- Louise Christy – Assistant Treasurer (cash management & referee payments)
- Evelyn Dixon – Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Mark Shustock – Accounting

In conjunction with assuming the club's new Accountant position, it was decided that it would be appropriate for Mr. Shustock to step down as Secretary to the board. As such, Mr. Shustock announced to the group that he had tendered his resignation to Mr. Carpenter prior to the meeting. Mrs. Lundberg informed the board that she had recruited a new Secretary to fill the position. The Candidate's name was Elizabeth Johnson.

The board then asked Mr. Archer, Ms. Hlady and Ms. Johnson to leave the meeting. During the absence of these invited guests, Mrs. Lundberg nominated Ms. Johnson to serve as the new SASC Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Carpenter and was unanimously approved. Mr. Archer, Ms. Hlady and Ms. Johnson were then asked to rejoin the meeting and Ms. Johnson was informed she had been elected as the club's new Secretary. The group warmly welcomed Ms. Johnson and thanked her for her commitment to serve the club and its members.

As the next matter of business, Mr. Polgar and George Tharakan (Tournament Coordinator) took the floor and led the group through a discussion related to the upcoming U9 and U10 jamboree that would hold several matches at the SSC. The jamboree was a CYSA-North District 2 event hosted by the Foothill Youth Soccer League (FYSL). Mr. Polgar and Mr. Tharakan brought to the board's attention that the FYSL had not allocated funds to pay the 2 Assistant Referees (ARs) for each of the matches. In order to address the matter, and also further advance another stated goal of the SASC to develop young referees, Mr. Polgar and Mr. Tharakan presented a proposal to allocate funds from the previously approved referee mentorship program to pay the jamboree's ARs. As part of the plan, referee mentors would also assist with the matches as mentors to the ARs. Mr. Polgar asserted that he strongly believed this was an excellent opportunity to use the mentors with the young ARs to help develop their skills and confidence.

It was decided by the board that after Mr. Tharakan developed a detailed set of financial projections for the plan a vote would be taken. The vote would be executed online (via Yahoo) since the matter needed to be decided prior to the next board meeting.

As the next matter of business, Mr. Kluz updated the group on developments related to the U8 - U10 competitive try-outs that were planned for December 13-14 at the SSC. Mr. Kluz noted that email communications / invitations had gone out, volunteers were being recruited, and Tom Brough's services had been secured to lead the on-field management of the evaluation sessions.

After Mr. Kluz concluded, Deanne Phillips (Competitive Registrar) took the floor and informed the group that she was planning on hosting a competitive team

coach's meeting in January 2009. During the meeting, registration issues for the spring 2009 season would be discussed. She also informed the board that she believed 2 new U8 Boys teams and 1 new U8 Girls teams would likely petition the board for approval to join the club. She believed that the new teams would be ready to apply for membership prior to the January coach's meeting.

As the last matter of business, Janine Dryden (Recreational Registrar) informed the board that the club was set to test on-line member registration for the spring 2009 recreational season. This would be a pilot program and not a mandatory registration vehicle for the club's members. It was hoped that if the program was successful it would lower the walk-in registration sessions from three to two as well as greatly reduce other administrative registration tasks. The program would be promoted / advertised using mass email communications as well as flyers. The final cost had not yet been determined, but it was anticipated not to be prohibitive.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Mokhtary at 9:50 pm.

The next board meeting was planned for Monday, January 12th at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Shustock  
SASC Secretary