



VANCOUVER ATHLETIC FC

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF VANCOUVER ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB (VAFC)

April 30, 2013 (Grandview Legion Auditorium)

Attending:

Lesley Collins	Rob Sambrook
Steve Weston	Michelle Cowan
Mark Hoag	Charmaine von Possel
Peter Keenlyside	Stew Woolverton
Kevin Soulsbury	Brendan Avery
Franck Beaucoup	Karen MacDonald
Dan Getz	Kim McGrail
Carli Edwards	Darren Sherbot

26 Parents of players (members of VAFC) were also in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 8:04 pm.

1. The outgoing Board was introduced.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from Douglas Park Soccer Club and Grandview Legion FC were noted, read and approved.
3. **Moment of Silence:** The meeting observed a moment of silence for members who had died over the previous season, particularly Murray Crooks, parent of two players at the Club, former Inhouse Coordinator, and a strong supporter of Club activities over many years.
4. **The Agenda** was approved as noted.
5. **Presidents' Report:** The President's report was approved as noted. Highlights included:
 - a. Increased enrolment at the merged Club as a result of increased awareness and opportunities available.
 - b. Success on the field: at the Boys level, particular success was seen by the U18 Blue Rangers, the U13 Hurricanes and the U18 Storm. For the Girls, the U18 Pumas and the U15 Roadrunners.
 - c. Karen MacDonald and Rob Sambrook noted that the merger process had come together quite smoothly, with very good integration at the Board level.
 - d. A member satisfaction survey was undertaken with many parents, as well as collecting feedback from the past season. Areas which could use improvement are communication, and clearer policy and procedures. Karen noted that many improvements had already been on-boarded, and it was hoped that better



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volunteer coordination would lead to more awareness of existing procedures and improved communication.

6. **Treasurer's report:** Charmaine von Possel submitted the Club financials. She noted the significant cash position that the Club has accumulated over the past few years, due mainly to synergies due to the merger, a very tight control over expenses, and surging enrolment. Charmaine noted that increasing expenses would be particularly felt next season in VYSA fees, referee payments, and field and gym rentals. **The financials were approved by acclamation**
7. **Registrar's report:** Kim McGrail reported that a new registration system was now in place which would offer an improved interface for coordinators to line up volunteers, a smoother registration experience for parents, and which was domestically based. Players registered the past season for the combined Club rose to 1600 from 1400 the year earlier. This consists of about 1000 boys and 600 girls.
8. **Head Coaches report:** Steve Weston's report was noted as read. He noted the challenges and opportunities in working with 1600 players and presumably 3200 parents. There has been some degree of migration from other, smaller Clubs, which Steve expected to accelerate as time goes by. Steve also noted that the Club's ability to set its own coaching course schedule and put on the courses in-house was a significant advantage to the Club. Steve also reported good results from the various player development sessions at age levels ranging from U6/7 up to U13 plus. About 150 players took part, a number which will grow as the Club matures and awareness grows. Steve also discussed the various coaching courses which would be offered next year, with a targeted announcement of July 1st. Operationally, Steve noted the scarcity of field space, which hampered some teams to get as much practice in as they would have liked, as well as the poor condition of several of the playing surfaces.
9. **Correspondence:** None
10. **Business arising from the Minutes:** None
11. **Divisional Report:**
 - a. **Boys':** Stew Woolverton noted that there were 34 teams at Boys' Divisional, with 17 at 8-aside and 17 at 11-aside. It was hoped that the graduating U18 Storm would be able to field a Men's League team under Club auspices next year, with the goal of encouraging life-long soccer and maintaining ties with the players.
 - b. **Girls':** Franck Beaucoup reported that BCCGSL had changed the way they tiered teams from U13 up. U11 and U12 numbers were much improved over the year. Fielding a U18 women's team next year might be difficult due to numbers.
12. **House League:**
 - a. Ann Duggan and Carli Edwards reported that enrolment was up about 10%, with most new members coming at the last minute. Ann stressed that Girls' U6-7-8 were still somewhat under-represented at the Club, and offered the greatest opportunity to report growth in the coming years. Some feedback had been made about a greater need to ensure balance between teams from year to year. This was a difficult balancing act, due to players wanting to play with friends, last minute registrations etc.



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- b. Carli noted the difficulty in using Trout Lake due to storage constraints and poor field quality. VAFC's Board is aware of the concerns, and continues to search for solutions to this issue.
 - c. Wrap-ups for House divisions were held at Douglas Park and at Van Tech. Both chapters reported a very happy experience and a very nice way to close out a fun season!
13. **Website:** The Club is transitioning to a new website along with the new registration system. TechSys will be hosting our site. Input and submissions from parents and members was warmly welcomed. The need for a mobile / social media presence was noted.
14. **Election of Board members:** With the Board's decision to re-align Director portfolios, 12 members were needed for the upcoming season. Members offering to return were: Karen MacDonald, Mark Hoag, Dan Getz, Stew Woolverton, Charmaine von Possel, Darren Sherbot, Kim McGrail, Peter Keenlyside, Lesley Collins, Joe Moulins, and Ann Duggan. The meeting was canvassed for new volunteers, and Loretta Lumley offered to stand. With 12 members offering to stand, and 12 vacancies, the slate was elected by acclamation. **Portfolios will be assigned at the next Board meeting.**
15. **New Business:** The U18 Blue Rangers requested funding for their upcoming entry in the Provincial Cup to be held in Prince George. They were urged to submit a more detailed proposal to the next Board meeting, where it will be considered by the new Board.
16. **Other Business:** Outgoing board members Rob Sambrook, Brendan Avery, Franck Beaucoup and Carli Edwards were thanked for their service, as well as outgoing co-President Karen MacDonald.
17. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26.