

# NUTMEG WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

Annual Meeting (unapproved)

January 29, 2011

New Haven Library Wilson Branch

In attendance as team representatives:

Easton	Sandra Hampson
Excels & Registrar	Dorothy Cohen
Guilford	Christine Fulton
Hamden	Margaret Piasecki-Longo
Meriden	BJ Romano
Orange	Jill Lacy
Southington	Kristin Prasauckas
Valley	Sue Schiavi & Jen Wolyniec (one vote only)
Yalesville	Alissa Balouskus
O40 & Treasurer	Lori Cooke-Marra
President	Sally Tremaine
Treasurer	Jennifer Lynch
Yalesville team member	Marsha Langner
Yalesville coach	Dennis Sciancalepore

Missing: Haddam-Killingworth

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Sally Tremaine, President. She thanked everyone for coming and assisting in getting the league off to a good start. We are now synchronized with CSSA as our "year" is now Fall/Spring. She noted that there were not too many issues as we had decent weather in the fall, but this spring is not looking too good.

Vice-President, Sandra Hampson stated that the schedule posted on the website for last fall was tentative and was uploaded by Jennifer Lynch before captains confirmed their fields, hence leading to some confusion. Captains need to let Sandra know about field availability as soon as possible so that the tentative spring schedule can be put up and they can contact her if there are problems. Sue Schiavi suggested that the Board members be CC'd.

Treasurer Jen Lynch noted that when we established registration fees last year, we were uncertain what our true costs would be; we had a surplus at the end of the year which would have involved the league paying taxes, so monies were refunded to the team captains in December based on the total number of players on the roster. The refund can be used for any kind of team expenses, such as referee fees, uniforms, field usage, etc.

Secretary Lori Cooke-Marra's minutes from the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of March, 2010, were approved with one minor typographical correction.

Sandra Hampson and Jennifer Lynch stood for re-election as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. Lori moved nominations be closed and secretary cast one ballot for both. Christine seconded. Passed unanimously. Next year the President, Secretary and Registrar are up for election.

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1) New CSSA rule requiring coaches and other non-player personnel to register and get passes:

Marsha questioned the cost for this. Sandra said at least part of the cost is for insurance, including driving to and from fields. Discussion ensued regarding coaches, assistant coaches and trainers. Sally will send an e-mail and talk to CSSA regarding the fee and the board will decide what to charge. BJ asked if our refund could cover these costs and Jen Lynch said teams could do anything team-related with their money. Jill noted that the league shouldn't have to absorb the costs. The non-players will have to register on-line and upload their pictures for player passes.

- 2) New CSSA rule requiring players to be registered a minimum of 5 days before their first game and also have a player pass:

Last fall, late registrants were added to the roster and told to bring their driver's license to the fields for ID. This year, CSSA rules stipulate that registration MUST be completed 5 days before the player plays in her first game and a pass issued. Jill suggested that we use 10 days to allow time for mailing the passes to the captains. Sandra noted that the picture could be uploaded with the driver's license but Sally said that most of the license photos were lousy. It was decided that 7 days from registration and receipt of payment, picture and ID would be sufficient to create a pass and put it in the mail. Captains are asked to encourage their new players to register early and send in their picture well before the season starts.

BJ asked whether players who played Spring 2010 but not Fall 2010 would have to re-register. Yes, they would as the NWSL calendar year is now Fall/Spring. We can, however, use their old pass and update it with a sticker for 2010/2011.

- 3) Spring Schedule, Registration, Over-30 schedule: 10 games, begin on Sunday, April 10, skip Easter (April 24), end on June 19:

We plan to start the second week of April, but snow may prevent that on many fields. The schedule may have to be pushed back as we skip Memorial Day, also. Sandra suggested that if we have to push back, she would move the first week (and possibly the second week) to the end and keep the rest of the schedule intact. The new schedule will be similar to last spring's.

There was a request to have Meriden send an e-mail reminding the away team that their home games will be played at 5:00 PM at Falcon Field in Meriden. There will be NO weather cancellations at this field because it is a 'turf' field.

If a player is registered in the fall but does not play in the Spring, please let Dorothy know as soon as possible if you wish that player to be removed from the roster. There is no limit to roster size.

Dennis stated that on 3 occasions player passes were not checked. Sally will advise John Collins, the CSSA referee assignor, that the referees need to be made aware that they must check passes and rosters.

Jill noted that many referees do not take the O30 women's games seriously. Chatting with friends during the game and allowing the games to get out of control are two complaints. Sally said that we can report referees to the assignor; Sandra noted teams can rate them after every game. Jen Lynch will put a link to the referee report document on the website. Sandra also put forth that we can request NOT to have a referee for a game and that we can always send our recommendations to the assignor. Sally stated that John Collins is very responsive.

- 4) Fund-raising for KFAC – collecting items for consignment store & eBay

Items are being requested from the whole league if anyone is cleaning out their house/garage/attic. Sandra suggested that the first e-mail to all registered players be sent by

February 1<sup>st</sup> to get people before they clean up and toss. Sally will send a list of items with the e-mail.

5) Structure of the Over-30 league, discussion about whether to break up into A & B brackets based on win/loss record

By acclimation, a resounding NO for this season. A suggestion was put forth to have the top two teams play each other twice and the bottom two teams play each other twice and NOT have the top and bottom of the league play each other. Jill stated that if we want to grow, we may have to divide into brackets. Much discussion followed. It was noted that some teams are having difficulty finding new players.

Dennis suggested that we should have a one vote/player present at our Annual General Meetings as this would significantly change this discussion. Jill noted that some teams change their rosters and that we are a recreational league. Sue suggested that we just play the schedule. Christine suggested that we leave the schedule discretionary. If we are able to grow the league, then having brackets or some other mechanism will be much easier to arrange.

6) Concerns about increased physicality and aggressive behavior in Over-30 games. Coaches and captains responsibilities, using assistant referees

Sally brought up the fact that younger players are entering the league who have played at a higher level than many of us. There is an increase in abusive language and aggressive behavior. She will discuss with John Collins and have him tell the referees to keep tighter control of the games. We don't mandate assistant referees in our league, but a team(s) can request the use of them and pay them accordingly.

Sue Schiavi questioned if we are a recreational league. Jill expounded on the requirements to be competitive:

- Keep official scores
- Keep standings
- Have tryouts
- Have promotion and relegation between brackets
- Have playoffs

Since we have none of these, we would be considered recreational.

Captains and coaches need to take more responsibility for players who become too aggressive, either physically or verbally, and talk to their players or even pull them off the field when they act inappropriately. Sandra stated that if any team feels that the referee is not controlling the game and that dangerous conditions are developing then that team is within its rights to walk off the field. She also noted that the referees should be paid at half-time. Marsha asked who required that. Payments are made after the first half to prevent the home team from not paying a referee after the game if they felt the ref hadn't done a good job.

Sandra suggested that we use assistant referees in all our games and Jill calculated that it wouldn't add all that much to each player per game. Sandra noted that the Saturday Morning Open League told the Assignor that they would pay \$65/40/40 for a referee team and it was not a problem. Last year we voted down a similar recommendation as it was felt to be too expensive. Marsha moved and Jen Lynch seconded that if John Collins agrees to assign 3 referees at a rate of \$65/40/40, then we will go with assistant referees as a league. Marsha amended and Margaret seconded that we offer a maximum rate of \$70/40/40. Motion carried with Southington, Easton, Orange, Valley, Excels and Guilford voting in favor. Meriden and Yalesville voted against. Sandra will pursue with John Collins and try to negotiate the lowest possible rate. Margaret asked, if the proposal to have a 3-man team doesn't work whether teams can still request linesmen. The answer is yes, just make sure that Sandra knows well in advance so she can arrange with John Collins. Sally asked to be kept informed about any referee issues/problems.

7) Discussion about how to grow the league:

Sandra suggested a Facebook page link to Like as a means to direct potential new players to the NWSL webpage.

Marsha requested that we put an upper age limit of 45 for field players and 50 for GKs in the O30 division, as a way to encourage younger players to join existing teams. Jill responded that no league has an upper age limit and that we could be opening ourselves to a discrimination lawsuit. She also noted that data does not support the supposition that new players don't join because some players are 'old'. Much discussion followed, with several team reps stating that such a rule would hurt their teams.

Sally indicated that we all need to work on creative solutions to growing both the Over-30 and Over-40 age brackets.

It was noted that West Hartford grew by dropping the age to Over-23 and dividing into 'A' & 'B' brackets. However, there is no "Open" league in that area, as there is in New Haven, that allows younger women to play.

Sandra suggested that we contact the local sportswriter at our local papers and have them place a notice about our league looking for players, as well as target other communities. We should also put this in our website. Jen Lynch suggested we contact the local youth leagues and make a pitch. This is how she found out about her team. Word-of-mouth is how Yalesville grew.

Margaret suggested we look to see if any West Hartford players might be interested in playing in our league or bringing a team in. Also, there is a Spanish league in the Milford area that might be willing to bring a team or send interested players.

Dorothy suggested we have a public relations person or committee handle this. Kristin Prasauckas volunteered.

Sandra moved to adjourn and Kristin seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 458P.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Cooke-Marra  
Secretary