

**Rheems Athletic Association  
Board Meeting - May 18th, 2014 - Meeting Minutes  
Lucky Ducks, Elizabethtown, PA**

President Mike De Stefano called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM with the following board members in attendance:

Sarah Hoffman (fundraising commissioner), Mark Weissend (lacrosse commissioner), Rick Knowlton (volleyball commissioner), and Brian Bell (secretary).

Craig Hummer (soccer co-commissioner) arrived at 8:05.

Heather Hassinger (treasurer) arrived at 9:00.

Mike Hamilton (softball co-commissioner) arrived at 7:23

Brian Heffleger (softball co-commissioner), Joe Carter (soccer co-commissioner), and Sean Burton (vice-president) were not in attendance.

- Special business/guests – Ken Burke (rugby)

Ken introduced himself and indicated he would like to start a rugby program with Rheems AA. Ken indicated that RugbyPA is the governing body for youth rugby in Pennsylvania. All Rugby falls under USARugby. Ken indicated there are two kinds of rugby, 15's and 7's. 15's are played in the spring and is competitive and 7's are played in the summer with tournaments. Ken indicated there are single schools with rugby and multi-schools with rugby at the high school level. Ken indicated about 15 kids are needed to start a club in the area. During the summer 7's curriculum is used with the U-6, U-8, and U-10 age groups using flags. U-13 is when contact is started.

Ken discussed his background playing and coaching rugby. He indicated he has no administrative background and not sure of the structure of the program yet. Ken indicated not much is needed for equipment, but fields are needed. Ken indicated RugbyPA send balls for free for start-up organizations. Rick Knowlton asked if there were any additional clubs in the area. Ken stated a few with Hempfield and Warwick in the immediate area. Ken indicated there are a lot of schools with rugby in the Philadelphia area. Ken indicated it is a spring sport with football players and wrestlers playing.

Mike De Stefano asked there were any girls that played. Ken indicated girls are drawn to rugby. Ken indicated that 7's are recreational and 15's are in the spring with 20-25 kids needed. Mark Weissend indicated lacrosse started as regionalized and branched out from there. Mike De Stefano asked what Ken would like to see for the program. Ken indicated he would like the program to start this summer with all age groups at one time. The summer program would teach basic skills. Ken indicated he doesn't want to jump right in and have a bad experience. Practice would be one day a week.

Mike De Stefano indicated there would be a lot of effort involved to start the program and wanted to make sure it would not conflict with football. Rick Knowlton indicated he thought it would be good for the organization. He also indicated that spring conflicts may be an issue in the future. There was a discussion about sharing field space. Ken indicated games are usually Sunday afternoon for competitive. Mark Weissend asked Rick about other sports that tried to start. Rick indicated that field hockey has never been tried. Sarah Hoffman indicated there may be time to add rugby to the second merchandiser add with volleyball.

Mike De Stefano asked Ken to put in a lot of effort to start the program and get flyers into school. Mike De Stefano indicated to put together a half sheet of paper and Ken and Sarah to coordinate. Craig emailed soccer flyer to Ken and Sarah. Mike indicated to start a basic sign-up and set up fees. Mike De Stefano asked for a vote for offering rugby for the summer. All board members present voted unanimously to add rugby. Brian Bell indicated Elizabethtown Boys club should be notified that rugby will be added to Rheems AA. Mike De Stefano indicated Sean should inform Elizabethtown Boys club. Mike De Stefano indicated there should be an email blast indicating rugby is being added to Rheems. Mike De Stefano asked if RugbyPA would send any seed money to start a program. Ken indicated he did not know. There was a discussion about distributing flyers to the schools for rugby.

**Action Item #1: Sean Burton to indicate to Elizabethtown boys club that Rheems is adding rugby.**

**Action Item #2: Send out email blast about rugby being added to Rheems.**

- Prior meeting minutes review and approval

Since there was no quorum, the meeting minutes were sent out for approval via email subsequent to the meeting.

- Finances – Heather Hassinger

April Finances - Subsequent to the meeting, Heather emailed the financial statements and check Registrar for April. Heather Hassinger provided an overview of the April finances and indicated specific information could be provided in the emailed financial statements along the with check registrar.

Heather discussed the utility bill. Heather indicated there is no physical address for the complex. There was a discussion to talk with Gene Oldham and to provide a physical address. There was also a discussion about calling different utilities and locking in at a 24 month fixed rate.

There was also a discussion about carrying balances in individual sports over to next year.

Heather indicated she upgraded to quicken 2014 and it has Heather's name and credit card associated with it.

- Previous business - Action Items – January

1. Craig Hummer to contact the high school about borrowing a mound. **Closed** *Craig not present at the April meeting. Update to be provided at the May meeting. Mike Hamilton to follow up with high school as needed.*

- Previous business - Action Items – April

1. Heather Hassinger to provide Mike Hamilton with specific utility information for the softball fields. **Open** *Mike Hamilton to follow up as needed.*
2. Mike Hamilton to coordinate new locks and keys with Joe Carter. **Open** *Will coordinate locks changed with Brian Bell.*
3. Sean Burton to follow up with Mike Hamilton about placing sign at Black Gryffin. **Open**
4. Bob Meuser to add Protect Youth Sports to website. **Open**
5. Joe Carter to send Rick designs for Volleyball and Sarah Hoffman to send Rick signs. **Open**

- New and Ongoing business

1. Fundraising and sponsorship - Sarah Hoffman

Update – Sarah indicated she coordinated the sub sale with Mike Hamilton. Sarah indicated she needs to sit down with Mike De Stefano soon and discuss Wenger and Robinson field. Sarah indicated she got another sponsor, Elizabethtown Family Health, and they need to be added to all uniforms. Sarah indicated the soccer yard signs are on order.

2. Softball - Mike Hamilton/Brian Heffleger

News/updates – Mike Hamilton indicated the 6U and 8U programs are doing well and the kids are loving it. Softball has had no complaints to date. Mike Hamilton indicated the Conoy coaches love playing under the lights. Mike Hamilton indicated a couple of kids quit for no specific reasons. Mike Hamilton indicated they sent 10U team to Columbia for a tournament and is looking to have all teams go to a tournament.

Mike De Stefano asked what Conoy is willing to contribute to softball. Mike Hamilton stated Conoy is looking for Rheems to provide a number. Mike De Stefano indicated it should match EGSA's contribution.

Mike Hamilton indicated Gene Oldham called Elizabethtown Boys Club about not taking care of the fields as well as in the past. Mike indicated West Donegal Township is happy with the relationship.

Mike Hamilton indicated concession stand is doing very well and the sub sale will make about \$5000 in profit.

Mike Hamilton indicated softball will have to invest in dimatex in the summer and it will be a substantial amount of money.

3. Lacrosse - Mark Weissend

News/updates – Mark indicated it was the last week of lacrosse. Mark indicated 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade won the championship at Manheim Township and that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade were not doing as well. Mark indicated there were two play dates with 700-800 girls in Elizabethtown. They had 4 fields and played from 9-5. Mark indicated that Elizabethtown will not host any play dates next year. Mark indicated he was not going to provide fall lacrosse for girls this year but he will continue to do the boys. Mark indicated that he will be changing the name for lacrosse soon and will hold a meeting for the name change. Mike Hamilton indicated that they can't use the high school logo. Mark indicated that fall lacrosse will need new nets between the fields which are about \$300 each. Mark indicated he is striking out in finding an assistant commissioner.

**Sarah Hoffman indicated we should send out a mass email to Rheems' families.**

4. Soccer - Joe Carter/Craig Hummer

News/updates – Craig Hummer indicated the spring was going well with about 475 kids playing soccer. Craig also indicated the following:

- The sub sale fundraiser made \$15,000.
- The travel teams are set for next year.
- There are 2 U-9 and 2 U-11 girls travel teams.
- Field maintenance is going well but it's expensive.
- Finances are in good shape.
- Provided an overview of the EPYSA grant (\$7000 applied for).
- Fall registration will be open at the end of the month.
- Commissioners are looking to add more volunteer positions.
- Creating a list of what soccer does and giving out more responsibilities to volunteers.

Mike Hamilton discussed combining fundraising for two sports. It was decided to keep fundraising separate.

5. Volleyball - Richard Knowlton

News/updates – Rick Knowlton indicated the pamphlets are out for volleyball and he is waiting on the yard signs. There was a discussion on where to place the signs for volleyball. Ken Burke offered to use his house as a sign location at 350 East High. Sarah Hoffman also indicated to place them at the off and on ramps to 283. Rick indicated it took a while to get mass emails out. Rick indicated he wants another round of email blasts. Rick indicated volleyball is finding a niche with younger girls. The high school has open gyms and Karen Eberly is starting a middle school program.

Rick indicated an add is being placed in the merchandiser this week and next week. Mike De Stefano asked what numbers Rick was hoping for. Rick indicated he was hoping for around 70 plus kids. He indicated he is limited to kids over 10 so they can

get the balls over the net. Rick indicated registration is \$45 this year. Sarah asked if the registration could go up to \$55. Rick stated it will go to \$55 soon. Rick indicated games are played on Monday and Thursday is the rain date with the program ending in early August. Rick indicated the program cost is about 1/3 of the cost of Spooky Nook. As indicated previously, Rick would like to get another email blast out. Sarah indicated Rheems may want to find someone to help with the website, possibly Roger Garber. Mike De Stefano stated to send all IT issues to him and he will call Bob.

Rick indicated he is good with coaches this year. Rick indicated two people helped him last year and he will see if either of them are interested in being a co-commissioner. Rick indicated that he is fine with the grass being cut on Thursday. Rick had a general discussion about mouth guards and concussions.

6. Facility/Field Maintenance – Not Discussed.
7. Field Usage – Not Discussed.
8. Miscellaneous - Not Discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04.

Next meeting date is Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Hope Community Church, Mount Joy, PA.