



2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES WHISTLER YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

Held: Monday 12th December, 2011
8 – 10pm

Location: Whistler Golf Club
4001 Whistler Way, Whistler, BC

Present: WYSC Board and members as per registration sheet

1. After registration of members and certification of Proxies, it was deemed that a quorum was present in person and by Proxy.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm and those present welcomed.

2. PJ O’Heany reviewed the 2010 Minutes of AGM.

Peter Shrimpton moved to make an addition to the 2010 AGM Minutes.

Item added: Acts of Directors for the prior year were approved. Moved by Peter Shrimpton, seconded PJ O’Heany – **carried**.

It was moved, seconded and **carried** to approve the 2010 AGM minutes with additional item added.

3. No New Business arising from 2010 AGM Minutes.

4. President’s Report was read by PJ (see attached)

In addition:

PJ is pleased that the new uniforms and the new name, “Whistler Avalanche” have been a great success in the branding of the club and representing Whistler more prominently on the soccer fields.

PJ thanked SYSA for their generosity in allowing WYSC to play a shortened season, finishing in late Fall, so as to accommodate our players that do other sports during the winter months.

PJ also thanked the young referees on board with WYSC and mentioned they are being paid \$12/hour so it is beneficial to all involved.

5. Presentation by PJ to David Demers

David Demers was presented with a framed Whistler Avalanche jersey.

David has been instrumental in developing youth soccer in Whistler and PJ thanked him for his years of tireless service to WYSC. PJ wished him well in his future endeavours.

David Demers thanked PJ and the club for the generous gift and commented how great the soccer community is in Whistler. David went on to say, since moving to the city he has had time to reflect on what soccer in Whistler is like compared to the city clubs and mentioned that soccer in Whistler is great for our players' development. His son, Cole, having spent his early years playing soccer here, was fortunate enough to make the gold team with his skill level however chose to play in the silver league due to time constraints with practices only 2 days a week in silver whereas gold level practices 5 days per week. David commented that every player in Whistler should learn to play every position, so they are able to adapt to any changes.

David also thanked PJ and Peter for their outstanding support and contributions to the club and the friendship they have had over the years.

6. Administrator's Report by Mitch Forster (see attached)

7. Uniform and Equipment Report by Mitch Forster (see attached)

8. Discussion following Equipment Report – re: Field Nets

Ian Van Gruen asked about the nets at MP and the High School and what was being done about them. He asked if it was possible to have removable nets or Velcro straps to help keep them in order.

Discussion followed about nets and it was determined that 2 or 3 goal posts need welding repairs at both MP and high school which will be done in the spring.

High school will have white nets which we have in stock. MP will have to order red or coloured nets to mask the mineral water that seeps from the ground, discolouring the nets and making them look worn and old.

***Action:** Organise welding repairs and new nets to go up in the spring.

9. Technical Director's Report by Polek Rybczynski

Polek started in the spring watching all age groups to get an overview. He found the most encouraging part was that across the board, all players were passionate about what they were doing. He said, based on this passion, everything else will just follow. It's important that kids have fun and this will lead to improvement in their skills.

It's vital to look at coaches and how they coach. To look at their skill levels and how they can transfer their knowledge to the kids is important. We need to ensure that the fundamental basics are made clear on all levels. The basic fundamentals are pass ball, receive ball and movement off the ball. This may be taught differently at different levels, however it is the same skill set.

Polek is planning on implementing this through the spring and in conjunction with coaching sessions with Donn Sparks.

The proposed winter coaching program was not successful as he believed it was hard for coaches to commit and that sessions would be most beneficial whilst during soccer season and preferably outdoors.

Polek complimented the U12 Travel Team, underlining that it was a great success. He saw them training and could see how the players could excel with individual skills.

Polek sees a role model in every coach which they can build on over the years and branch out to 2-3 age groups within their divisions.

The BC Soccer "Grassroots" presentation was very good to make the connections with the BC Association; however, this won't necessarily add anything magical. It's simple football that we need.

Going forward it will be more important for WYSC to work with Quest University and the QU Academy Indoor Futsal Program, which will greatly benefit the club. This program will offer 3 important things to our players:

- 1) variety in their training
- 2) something tangible to help them improve their skills
- 3) expose them to Quest and the great facility in turn inspiring them to pursue sports and education

Coaches' education over the last year has included the 'Monthly Football Thoughts' Newsletter and the feedback has been good. Following on from this Polek has created a structured program of weekly thoughts that will also link into specific sessions with coaches. These sessions, during the spring will be 2 x a week and will bring the whole team together.

Polek feels privileged to contribute to the WYSC and believes it has been a successful season to date.

10. Discussion following Technical Director's Report

Jack Crompton spoke in response to Polek and his TD report, confirming that the direction that Polek has taken is incremental and a very positive direction for WYSC.

Jack has spent time watching Polek and is amazed at his ability to pin point exactly what it is the coaches need and how to improve them individually.

Peter Shrimpton suggested that having Polek watch the coaches adds another dimension to the coaching the coaches receive.

Jack pointed out to all coaches to use Polek as a reference point, invite him to practice and engage him in your practice.

Jack also made reference to the Handbook that both Polek and he have been working on and believes it will be a huge asset to the coaches and the club.

Jack suggested using Polek in the following ways as it is the next step towards becoming a better coach and it will raise one's self esteem as a coach:

1. Let him show you how it's done
2. Understand what is done well and you will improve

Barry Burko responded to the TD report and Jack's comments by saying that though he doesn't play soccer or understand it but what he does understand is that the Board is committed to getting things done. It's not only the game of soccer but the friendships that are made and that the coaches in our club are everything.

11. Financial Report by Barry Burko

The financial position of the club is very good. With about \$55,000 in cash and despite having invested \$40,000 on uniforms we only have a \$6,000 loss which is most satisfactory. The financials are unaudited, however.

3 main areas to note:

- 1) Wages are over budget but with both Angela and Mitch lots of work has been done
- 2) Registrations are up
- 3) Registration refunds are up, possibly a consequence of higher registrations

12. Discussion following Financial Report – re: Uniform Expense

Uniforms give a sense of pride and the club has saved and saved and therefore introduced them all at once. Crosland Doak suggested that we have more and therefore have to spend more in any case, so this should not be an issue.

It was moved, seconded and **carried** to approve the above reports.

13. Waiver of Auditor Appointment and approval of reports and acts of Director

Peter Shrimpton clarified what this meant by explaining that it was standard practice for many non-profit societies to waive the appointment of Auditor process. The process is also very expensive and it is a rare occurrence to follow this practice.

Peter also advised that WYSC has a competent treasurer and the Board reviews the financials. The fact that WYSC also does not apply for gaming grants is further reason that the practice is not required.

It was moved, seconded and **carried** to waive the Auditor Appointment.

14. Election of Directors

David Demers has stepped down due to relocation to the city.

Jack Crompton agreed to be Vice President and Head of Technical Direction

Peter Shrimpton agreed to continue as Past President

Crosland Doak to be Fields and Long Term Planning

Bernard Messenguer to be director at large

Lynda Harnish Kranjc to look after Grant Applications

Barry Burko willing to stand as Treasurer

Mitch (Michelle) Forster resigned due to appointment as Administrator position

PJ suggested that there were still positions available on the Board and asked for any offers. Jack suggested specifically the area of Tournaments was in need of attention.

It was moved, seconded and **carried** that all Directors be accepted.

15. New Business – Open Discussions

Business Plan – Direction of WYSC

David Demers explained that the WB Foundation was willing to put dollars towards a business plan that will help expand the club.

Previously Jack and Lynda had looked into developing the plan for tournaments which was great; however, we are not the tournament capital as first thought which is due to field restraints.

The cost of the plan at \$5,500 could be budgeted for; however, the plan needs to be reviewed and redefined before going forward.

The Board needs to have another visioning session with Shannon Susko to revisit and refine the business plan. This has been discussed and will take place in the new year.

Lynda agreed, suggesting that it was an important tool to use when planning fundraising and grant applications. The club needs to know what the ultimate goals are and also create a 2/5/10 year plan. With more staff support the Board can work harder and there is plenty of fundraising out there. If we are to expand and get bigger we will need more

staff and an office, so we need to make decisions about where we are going and what direction we want for the club.

David Demers suggested that we need to listen to Councillors first, to know where Whistler is heading. The WB Foundation is behind the development of soccer and if we need coaches, we will need more money in the future.

Lynda pointed out that the WYSC is growing; however, other clubs, in particular the Nth Shore registrations are down 3%. Soccer is an affordable program and we have access to many more grants, asking for what we need as they are out there.

Cros suggested that the Business Plan may mean that rather than grow we need to simply improve what we have. With regards to the fields we may have a granular field at Cheakamus by summer however there is the potential to request funds from the wealth of Whistler. We should explore this option.

David Demers supports the ability of WYSC to offer a scholarship suggesting that there are great opportunities for all types of sports in Whistler.

Jack pointed out that the Business Plan originally was to expand tournaments; however, discovered that this would not be achievable. The new direction might be a Development Centre here instead, agreeing that the Business Plan needs to be refined in order to make it useful.

Cros agreed that it was more realistic to continue with small tournaments.

Discussion raised by David about the attempt at having the Whitecaps Women's Tournament in Whistler this past May. He noted that the Municipality was not particularly interested, suggesting they did not understand the opportunity and were not prepared to offer any funds to support the project, which was very unfortunate.

U14 Boys - Issues

Fumiko addressed the meeting suggesting that the U14 boys need serious attention. Her son is 11 yrs old and in this group. She mentioned that she was very disappointed at the lack of commitment by the coaches at this level. Many indoor practices were cancelled. On one occasion there was no coach and the boys were un-supervised in the gym for their session, which is disconcerting from a liability point of view for the club. Many of their outdoor practices were cancelled due to rain; however, there were other groups training regardless.

In response to Fumiko's concerns PJ advised that the Head Coach however was called away a lot this season on business. He pointed out that another coach had tried to manage.

Fumiko understands and certainly appreciates that coaches are volunteers and has great respect; however, there needs to be a certain level of responsibility provided. The players are very keen and want to play.

Cros Doak pointed out that the U12 TT was an experiment as the jump from U11 to U14 does have its difficulties with regards to maturity amongst the players. By creating the U12 group it also took coaches away from the U14 group, which is obviously part of the issue.

Barry Burko suggested that we are a club that needs to work together and that we all need to be involved to ensure that this does not happen.

PJ pointed out that the club can provide support for the coaches and that it needs to be brought to our attention. This is the first time that the Board has heard of this issue.

Lynda suggested the main issue that needs to be dealt with is coaches not showing up and we need to increase communication between coaches.

***It was agreed** that this has been a problem; however, there needs to be more involvement from parents and the club for the U14 group. There should be no players without supervision whilst at a scheduled practice.

Polek followed by commenting that the feedback from coaches in general is that everyone is having fun. Polek is prepared to help support the U14 boy's coaches if and when required.

Jack Crompton was thankful that the issue was raised and that the Board is receptive to this information and needs to develop a coach relations contact.

Barry Burko commented there has been a problem identified and now to look for a solution, suggesting the Board may consider a committee for recruiting support.

Marv Haasen explained he has no soccer experience; however, he is able to coach soccer as in his experience there is support from other coaches and the club. His suggestion is to survey parents at time of registration about their skill set so that the club can approach them and use them in appropriate areas of need within the club.

Dave Tobias commented that as a coach you need to grow with it and learn from those around you. There is however a management and communication issue.

Indoor Futsal Program

PJ advised that the club is working with QU Academy to offer an indoor 7 week Futsal program which may lead to an opportunity for our players to go outdoors in Squamish before our season starts again in Spring.

***Action:** details to be finalized and Mitch to circulate to the membership as soon as possible

North Shore – Opportunity

Dave Demers offered anyone wanting to visit the North Shore to contact him as they would welcome players wanting extra games.

4District Discipline Committee

The Board has received notification about some incidences of racial slurs and derogatory comments being used in the Lower Mainland during youth soccer games. An email to be sent to all club members and all coaches need to address the issues raised with players. Unfortunately, this practice is very prevalent in the city and there has been some incidences in Squamish. The key in stopping this is that officials (referees) need to be notified immediately by anyone witnessing this kind of inappropriate behaviour.

***Action:** Mitch is to circulate information from 4District Discipline Committee to membership as soon as possible.

Increasing Volunteers

Lynda suggested that we could have a Sign Up Coaches Day, with a game, BBQ and merchandise sales. This might be encouraging for parents to come out and volunteer. Jack Crompton suggested perhaps a better way would be to ask all parents what they can do during registration online. Peter Shrimpton advised that we all need to talk it up on the field and recruit whenever and whenever possible.

Social Media

Aaron Jackson suggested the club needs to upgrade its communications, as email may not be the most effective way to communicate. We should consider texting and Facebook and look at other ways to improve our communication with members. This ties in with our plan for a new registration system and is scheduled for the new year.

***Action:** Mitch to contact Aaron as this is his area of expertise.

16. Announcements

Angela Mellor has resigned and Mitch Forster has been appointed the new Administrator, taking over officially as of 1st Feb 2012. PJ thanked Angela on behalf of the club for all her hard work and all that has been accomplished over the past years.

PJ gave thanks to Ro Davies at the Whistler Golf Club for hosting the WYSC AGM and thanked all for coming out and being involved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.