

**Essex United Soccer Club**  
**February 10, 2004**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Michelle Hetling, Howard Lincoln, Linda Elliott, Cathy Tremblay, Randy Darden, Carolyn Rushford, Jay Shepard, Kay Maloney, Steve Wildermuth, Ed DeMulder.

The meeting was held in Essex High School, Room C102 and called to order by Linda Elliott at 7:13 pm. The minutes from the Jan.13, 2004 meeting were reviewed. Jay Shepard made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Howard Lincoln seconded this. Motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michelle handed out the financial summary, with Jan. 2003/2004 comparisons available. Howard inquired as to the rate of return on the power account. Michelle said that we currently receive a .95% interest rate with New England Federal Credit Union. At Charter One bank, their Money Market Account offers free business checking, a 2.25% interest rate, and a \$300 bonus for opening a new account, when having at least a \$10,000 balance and purchasing a \$55 first-time check order. Michelle made a motion to move both the checking & savings accounts from NEFCU to Charter One. Kay seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Michelle is still working on a budget. The question of what to do with the profit was brought up by Michelle. She suggested using the money to offer indoor practice to our teams. Discussion was held on this topic. Steve has discussed indoor winter training proposals with Trevor Squirrel since the Nordic Indoor Center is always trying to find teams to train. Steve is willing to put forth a proposal concerning indoor training. Both Jay and Linda recommended waiting until the Tree Farm expense was known. Kay mentioned that the new jerseys have not been purchased yet, and Carolyn still needs to pay CVYSL fees for this year.

**Registrar's Report:** Carolyn made note of the March 15, 2004 GMSL deadline for player passes. She provided information concerning the new Coach Disclosure Forms now required by the VSA. All coaches, every year will be required to submit these notarized forms, which are sent to the State of Vermont for a name check. This year, there is no fee for this service. Kay inquired as to who needs to complete and submit the form. After some discussion, the Board interpreted that only those adults that are alone with the players will need to fill out the disclosure forms, those adults being the coaches on that team's roster. Kay has heard that a grant is covering the cost of the Coach Disclosure forms for 2004 only, so we should consider having 2005 coaches complete them at registration in Sept. 2004 to avoid any cost.

The VSA annual meeting will be held on Sat. March 27, 2004 at the Nordic Indoor Center. The VSA requires one of the Essex United board members to attend otherwise a fine could be imposed.

Steve recommended thinking ahead to fall registration time. Carolyn mentioned putting efforts into advertising to gain interest. Linda said an effort would be put into recruiting with a possible brochure being produced. Michelle suggested an Essex United day at school, when players could wear their jerseys.

Linda read the refund policy. After much discussion on changing the refund date, Kay made a motion that the refund date be changed to Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and Michelle seconded the motion. More

discussion followed and Kay then amended her motion to change the deadline to Dec 15<sup>th</sup> and Carolyn seconded this. Discussion followed, and Kay withdrew her motion for the Dec 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. This discussion will be picked up again at a future meeting.

**Coach Coordinator Report:** Steve reports that the U-14 Boys B team still needs more players. The U-10 Boys "B2" team needs a coach. Bob Grubbs is currently helping with communications to B2 parents.

Player training for U-10 boys/girls will be held on March 13 & 27 from 8-9:30 am at the Nordic Indoor center. Steve is working on getting good caliber staff committed to both dates. Jay recommended that coaches participate.

Steve mentioned the Challenger summer camp will be made available again this year, and flyers will be mailed out. Last year the UVM and Vermont Voltage soccer camps offered discounts to Essex United players, and hopefully for this year as well. Howard suggested mentioning the camps in our spring newsletter.

A coaches meeting was held on Feb. 9, 2004 at which administrative materials were handed out to coaches. Steve has finished the Coach's manual and will pass those out to each coach when the binders are complete. The Board would like to thank Steve for putting the Coach's manual together.

**Tournament Report:** Ed held a tournament committee meeting on Feb. 4, 2004. The committee reviewed the 2003 EU Tournament results, and added four new committee members: Helen Murdock, Cindy Rickes, Kim Drury, and Jean Blunt. The next meeting will be held on March 3, 2004 at 7 pm.

Ed handed out the results from the coaching survey completed at the tournament. The level of play was found to be very competitive by 97% of the coaches. Ed noted that the game schedule rating dropped again this year, suggesting coaches perhaps did not agree with only one hour in between matches. Overall, the ratings were favorable.

The applications for the 2004 tournament will be out the first week of March. The registration fee has been raised \$25 for each age group. The U-10 teams will now pay \$225 and the U-12, U-14 and U-16 teams will pay \$325. Ed would like to thank Randy Darden for updating the tournament info on the website.

Howard attended the Nordic Cup meeting and had concerns that Nordic wants to use the Essex High School fields for their tournament the week before the EU tournament. Ed believes that the stress could jeopardize the fields for our tournament as well as for the high school use, and is confident that the school will not allow it.

**Facilities Report:** None available.

**Equipment Report:** None available

**Uniform Report:** Kay had nothing to report.

**Boosters Club Report:** Kay had nothing to report.

**CVYSL/GMSL Report:** Howard says the CVYSL has proposed a Jamboree for the first weekend in May for U-10, U-12 and U-14 teams. The league is requesting feedback by Feb.15, 2004 for interest in this event. The fees would be as follows: U-10 and U-12, \$50 per team, U-14, \$90 per team. The fee difference reflects the number of referees involved. The Jamboree

would be held at a variety of sites and considered a spirit-building event. Ed inquired as to who would run it, and Howard will get this answer at the March 19 CVYSL meeting. Steve said that any opportunity to play soccer is good for the players. Kay recommended not passing this team fee on to the players. Ed made a motion to enter all CVYSL teams from Essex United into the Jamboree with the club paying the team fee. Jay seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The preliminary schedule for CVYSL will be mailed out this week and due back by March 1, 2004 with any requested changes. The final schedule will be out on March 18, 2004. The GMSL assignments were released this afternoon.

Field reservations are under way. Ed has given the insurance binders to Howard and he will be able to finalize the applications. Howard heard from Mark Barry, and the Essex Town Selectboard has reversed its decision to charge a \$4 fee per player for this season.

There is a need for referees for the CVYSL/GMSL. There will be a referee recertification class on March 7 and 14, 2004 in South Burlington. Ed suggested putting info on our website concerning referees and the league's willingness to help with uniform costs. Howard will verify the reimbursement of referee uniforms and recertification fees. Kay made a motion to reimburse the certification costs of referees after they have worked their first game. Carolyn seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Howard reminds that the State Cup application is due Feb.15, 2004 for teams in the GMSL. Howard read the Board an email he received from Rik Davies concerning the GMSL bracket.

**Tree Farm Report:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The Board would like to recognize the great job that Randy Darden has done regarding the web page. Any future updates may be given to Randy.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Jay Shepard. Kay Maloney seconded the motion, and Linda Elliott adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Tremblay, secretary.

Subsequently approved by the Essex United Board Members on March 9, 2004