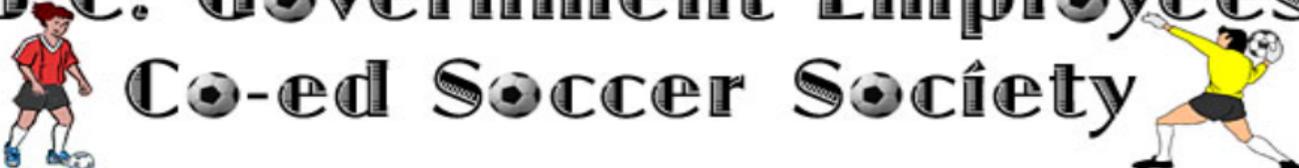


B.C. Government Employees Co-ed Soccer Society



Executive Reports – *for the short season that was* – Summer 2020

Presidents Report

What a strange year it has been. I am happy to acknowledge and reflect on the fact that we have been able to salvage part of the 2021 season and have the league back up and running. Thanks to all the teams and managers for your contribution. For the most part our transition back has been relatively smooth.

Even though there was no soccer for several months your executive stayed in close contact monitoring the situation so we could be ready on a moments notice. Hard to tell, but this meant we were not idle over the last year as we kept a watch over events and maintained contact with BC Soccer and field providers etc (thanks Hu). In that time, I am happy to report that we brought a new Treasurer on Board – Gareth Crisp – who has produced a budget for us to help make better sense of our financial situation which generally is pretty good. Gareth will tell you more.

For my part I convened virtual meetings of the executive as necessary and worked to keep the team together through this challenging time. Along with virtual meetings, we also exchange information and made decisions via email. In future I would like to figure out a way to make that information available to all managers (something to discuss with James our Secretary). And as a reminder to all, we consider any communication coming our way as information for the entire executive. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible. Further to this, I was pleased to see the Executive adopt a code of conduct which I am hoping we can get all managers to endorse. It as provided to you in advance, and I encourage you to review it if you have not already. This is a foundational new policy that sets the stage for reviewing our policy around discipline which AI will speak to in a few minutes.

Your Executive is function quite well (my thanks to each of them for their work and commitment over the past year) with everyone during their part. One concern I have is distribution of labour and the need for some additional help. As the other members of the Executive report out, you will hear about the necessity to too recruit some of you into roles and create a better balance of workload. When the original group came together a few years ago, to take over from Michael Bradley, it was our goal to get managers more engaged and we need to do a better job of that; we need folks to step up.

Vice President's Report

Fields

Field options were researched in the fall/winter of 2020/21, but most field providers would not make bookings during covid. Once the PHO cleared a return to sport, we were able to get verbal commitments to book fields, starting in mid-June, but the requirements and permits were not in place until later. This led to uncertainty about field costs, reflected in not setting team fees until mid-season this year.

One unfortunate consequence of the covid hiatus was that Saanich clubs wanted to play on their turf fields thru the summer, so Hampton and Braefoot were not available to us. On the upside, Finlayson was more available due to cancellation of the usual May/June soccer clinics.

Grass field conditions and lining were not good this year. In trying address these, it was clear that operations staff were prioritizing covid-related work over fields.

Teams and Schedules

18 of 19 teams from 2019 returned in 2021. This led to a schedule with no bye weeks. Labour Rangers hope to return in 2022. The over-40s scrimmage, which was very successful in 2019, never achieved critical mass this year, and was cancelled after 2 weeks.

The August 7th windup event was only of interest to 11 teams this year – lots of competing priorities this year! The schedule worked best with 2 games – no byes, and only 1 day. This led to considerable cost savings – reduced field and ref costs, no beer garden insurance or table, chair and fence rentals. The event cost is now under \$1000, versus nearly \$3000 if it had gone two full days with all teams and a beer garden.

A number of teams asked to extend the season into August, but because views were mixed, we decided to make this optional, and scrimmages rather than games. 9 teams were interested. To make things simple, Blues opted to scrimmage with an Over-48s men's team, leaving 8 teams to share Finlayson for 4 weeks. Costs were reasonable with no refs, and little need for lighting.

A number of teams have struggled for numbers, and it has been encouraging to see a high level of cooperation in finding players when needed. This is an area where we can do more in future, and which will help develop a stronger sense of community in the league.

Closing comment

This has indeed been a challenging year, and it has been encouraging to see the level of enthusiasm and understanding among managers and players for what was, by necessity, a chaotic start, and an abbreviated season. I look forward to 2022, and more normal times.

Treasurer's Report

This season was shortened due to the pandemic and timing of restriction lift. We only had the 2019 financial statements to base our budget off. Fees were set at \$1,200 per team for the season starting June 17, 2021 and ending August 8, 2021.

Eight teams decided to continue and participate in scrimmages from August 10, 2021, to September 2, 2021. For these eight teams, fees were set at \$1,340, an additional \$140, to cover the field cost of Finlayson. Total Revenue is \$22,020 and as of August 3, 2021 - \$4,240.00 is still in Accounts receivable (Outstanding fees).

Field Costs came out to \$7,188.88. Out of the cost, as of August 3, 2021, there is \$1,201.59 still payable to Finlayson for August 10, 2021 – September 2, 2021. Referee fees are \$4,180.00 for the season 2021 and the website cost was anticipated to be \$2,000, but as of August 3, 2021, only \$1,002.92 has been incurred. The BC Soccer Association fee is projected to be approximately \$3,000, nearly half compared to previous years. This fee is still payable as of August 3, 2021, until team rosters and registration of players have been completed.

Tournament fees were projected to be \$1,000, but the cost of the tournament has amounted to \$829.58 (JDF fields, gazebo, and washroom). As of August 3, 2021, no Miscellaneous costs have been incurred and this brings the total costs for the 2021 season to be \$16,281.38 (Projected).

The total surplus for the 2021 season is projected to be \$5,738.62. The executive has approved and prepared to provide managers with the choice of a refund of \$300 or to carry over the \$300 for the 2022 season and be used as a credit towards team fees. Managers will decide individually the option they would prefer to exercise.

Secretary

This league is a society. In terms of the BC societies act requirements, at least 3 directors are required which is on record, and that a \$40 annual report must be filed within 30 days after the AGM. The annual report will be in the form of our AGM minutes to capture the past year. The societies act also requires the years financial record to be kept as well as the constitution and bylaws which can be found on our website. This year I will submit the annual report again and at the same time also file a \$15 change of director to add Gareth, provided we formalise today the appointment of Gareth as treasurer and any other changes to executive positions. The two positions open for nomination and potential change today are secretary and vice-president.

This summer I renewed our associate membership with the provincial governing body, the BC Soccer Assn. (\$100 fee). This keeps our league in good standing with the BCSA and also provides us with insurance for liability and sports accident incidents. They're two separate things. While the latter deals with emergency related costs such as dental, physio, eye-glasses etc, the liability refers to court action and more expensive serious claims around big picture claims like loss of income and rehabilitation. This is a good time to remind managers and all members to be registered before playing in the league to ensure you have BCSA protection. Otherwise, liability would likely fall to the team manager and individuals involved. Fortunately, we very rarely have a serious injury incident. This year there was an insurance inquiry from Team Resuscitators which I haven't heard back yet whether a claim was made.

The league executive met by teleconference call numerous times within the past two years. Throughout last year preparing for the 2020 season that didn't eventuate. Because of the ongoing pandemic, some meetings were brief check-ins to adjust our season planning to the new PHO while other meetings have required a lot of decision making.

I want to acknowledge the executive group for good team-work and collaboration, persisting through the pandemic and staying focused on getting us all back on the field as soon as possible. Thanks to President Brent for leading us and steering the many meetings and today's AGM. Kudos to Past-President Michael for advising the executive over the past few years.

Also, thanks to Gareth who is well qualified to manage our financials and we're lucky to have his expertise for this league. Many thanks to Ref Co-ordinator Al for ongoing organising of a pool of referees including the introduction this year of two new ladies. As well as Al's extra work behind the scenes processing game reports, scheduling and recording the work done by refs, and also for heading up our newly formed discipline committee.

As league members please consider stepping forward, perhaps just for the next season, to get involved in that committee. I want to express the most gratitude to Vice-president Hu for dedicating many hours of his own time to patiently persist and liaise with a variety of city and school field providers. Even connecting with VISL to utilise their lockbox at Finlayson turf for the field lights. All those interactions take time and effort. As a league we are most fortunate to have Hu's experience, expertise and the rapport he's built with other

stakeholders. This has been key to getting our season up and running so quickly as soon as the PHO allowed it. Again, we would like to see members of the league step forward to take on some of those roles such as arranging field permits and so on.

Referee Coordinator

Two female officials were added to the referee list this season. This is great news and consistent with the league being co-ed. All officials are members of BCSA and are annually required to attend a "Refresher Clinic" on the Laws of the Game in order to maintain their certification.

League play started friendly enough as I think everyone was just grateful to be back on the field. However, during the last week of June we experienced a period of grumpiness when several cards were shown. I encourage everyone to be cognizant of the fact that we are a co-ed recreational soccer league for the enjoyment of all workers and to foster the feeling of fun, no standings or scoring records are kept.

I received very little feedback from team managers, both positive and negative, about the quality of officiating in their games. I encourage team managers to contact me if they have any concerns, which will be addressed.

I truly believe that player / team awards for Friendliest Team and Classiest Players contribute positively to the recreational nature of the play on the field. I very much look forward to the awards returning next season.