

**EAST OF SCOTLAND SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING SUNDAY 15TH November 2009**

Committee present: David Smith (Chairman), Roger Oglesby (Temp. General Secretary), Louise Lewis (Treasurer), Tom Terrell, John Brock, Brian Mackrell, Moray Dickson (Match Secretary's).

Guest: Mark Munro.

1. Chair's opening remarks & apologies:

David welcomed everyone to the meeting. A record of attendance was circulated for signature. Apologies received from Ian Fergus; Edinburgh Star.

2. Previous minutes:

Minutes of 160809 were circulated along with the agenda. Scot Turner; Dunedin proposed and Ally Brown; Spartans, seconded.

3. Treasurers report:

Louise circulated a copy of the financial record for the 3 months ending 31.10.09. The balance of surplus funds carried forward total **£6,618.41p**. Although winter Futsal will be a big future expenditure. Team dues from North Merchiston under 10,s, Craigmoynton 10,s & 11,s and Hutchison Vale 12,s were still outstanding.

Louise asked that any outstanding fees be submitted to Tom.

4. Match secretary reports:

Under 12 match secretary: Brian said that the second part of the season would run from 7th March – 20th June. He needs to know which teams will be leaving or entering new teams by 14th February 2010.

John Brock asked for honesty from coaches when they assess their teams ability and choice of Division to ensure an equal level of ability and even games between well matched teams.

Brian said there are 27 teams presently at u12. Pele 10, Maradona 9 and Zidane 8. There had been a number of moves between divisions and he apologized for the number of fixture changes. It is hoped that there will be two leagues of 13 and 14 teams. Brian has e-mailed coaches to establish which teams intend to remain with ESSDA at U12. To date only 4 coaches had replied and indicated that they will stay.

Under 11 match secretary: Moray reported that there had been changes to a number of contact numbers and that several fixtures had been changed. He stressed that it is important to know as soon as possible which teams are staying at 7-a-side and suggested that those teams staying could arrange friendlies to get practice at 11-a-side. He apologized for Beechwood who had cancelled a number of games due to a lack of players and coaches and he said that they had hopefully turned it around. Moray said that coaches shouting at referees only encouraged their players to do the same and that the players will be disciplined for dissent at 11's.

Under 10 match secretary: Tom reported that there were no problems that he was aware off. If coaches wished to change leagues they should get back in touch by 14th February. It hadn't been decided if there would be an additional league. There will be a Beechwood colts team in the Zidane under 10's after Christmas.

Under 9 match secretary: Roger reported that there had been problems with teams in wrong divisions resulting in Leith and Tynecastle swapping. Contact details are on the website. Roger also mentioned that there had been incidents at matches involving disputes between parents which he would discuss later.

Under 8 match secretary: John Brock reported that there were 68 teams playing at 4 venues; Loanhead, Fernieside, Saughton and Spartans.

There is no winter football for under 8's although Mark has secured Riccarton for 18 teams. Between 12:00-13:00 on Sunday afternoons. John invited coaches to speak to him if they had any issues.

5. Winter Futsal

Roger said that winter Futsal had been organized for 9, 10, 11, and 12's and thanked Mark for his help. Venues are World of Football and Dalkeith. A lot of applications to play had already been received and will close as soon as they have all the teams that they can cope with. The Futsal will last 7 weeks with the last week event for everybody at World of Soccer.

In-service dates for Futsal and creative player are between 18:30 – 20:00 on 04/12 @ Dalkeith Campus. 19:30 – 21:00 on 04/12 @ Deans Community Centre and 20:30 – 21:30 on 27/11 @ Queens Centre, Galashiels.

Football central website has been closed and access to Youth football is now through the SFA website.

6. Guidelines for soccer 7's

Part of the handout circulated contained amended guidelines for the under 9, 10, 11 and 12's including modified regulations on offside and retreating lines for u12's. Offside and retreating lines rules are not optional. Coaches unhappy with the modifications were offered the opportunity to raise their concerns.

Leagues are drawn up by age group and it is recommended that players play in their own age group.

However, any overage player should be identified to the opposition coach. Continually playing overage players to make up numbers is not acceptable. Medical grounds would be an acceptable good reason to play someone overage. At age 13, 14 15 etc age groups are compulsory with penalties for failing to comply.

John Douglas; Spartans asked why we allow it. It was said that it is a grey area and some teams do abuse it. Players who lack ability should go down the leagues to find their level. Some coaches play overage players to strengthen their team and go all out to win. It's not an excuse to say you didn't know a players age, it is wrong. It is down to coach integrity and the cheats should be flushed out.

Tom said that the history behind it was that a lot of clubs could not get sufficient players of the right age so it was agreed to allow a mixture of ages. As ESSDA grew it was intended that it would fall by the wayside. If players just miss the cut off it was still acceptable to play them as long as their skill level was at the level of the younger players. As you can't play overage at U13 level, somebody playing over their age is going to have to jump up two age groups and it is better to sort that out before it reaches that stage.

The subject of goalkeepers kicking from hand was raised. It is not allowed in the regulations, the pass must be kicked from the ground or thrown. It is good practice to allow the defenders time on the ball to develop their skills. Seeking an advantage by throwing it the length of the park does not promote good practice or enhance the game.

Ally Brown; Spartans asked if the goalkeeper is allowed to kick the ball past the retreating line. Mark said that if the GK is pressured it is okay, he does not have to pick it up and in the case of a pass back would not be allowed to pick it up. Quick play is to be encouraged as good practice and the GK can throw the ball past the retreating line to mount a counter attack.

Robert: Eskmill U10's asked why it was changed as defenders were not being given time to clear the ball as the attackers close them down to quick. They defenders should be allowed to take their first touch

safely see where team-mates are and knock it into space or over the top of the attackers or switch to the other side. The earlier they play this format the more comfortable they will become. It is a learning process. Defenders who rush a bit more now will be comfortable by the end of the season.

John Brock suggested coaching the boys to open their bodies ready to knock the ball into space. Having four attackers on the retreating line, ready to rush in, goes back to the having the wrong mentality and trying to win at all costs. All coaches should adopt good practice and allow the kids to play. Coaches should be able to address this with coaching points. Players shouldn't be taking their first touch facing the gk, they should be taught to open their body to give them more time.

Mark said that only 32 coaches out of a possible 300 came to the in-service day, which included the introduction of the retreating line. He said that it had been proposed by Neil McIntosh that the retreating line at 11 and 12's be removed.

A show of hands was asked for and it was unanimously agreed to retain the retreating lines.

Mark said that the games were to be played with referees and it is the home teams responsibility. Refs should not coach their team from the centre of the park. Parents and coaches see it as unfair. Coaches should not over coach and parents should be encouraged to be neutral. Coach to a minimum in a constructive manner. Coaching should be done on training nights.

Robert said that ESSDA is a fixture service with agreed common rules. Coaches either play by those rules or vote to change them.

7. SFA Report

Mark said that he had attended meetings and discussed relations with senior clubs about taking players away from Assoc teams. It was an open meeting with both heads of youth at Hibs and Hearts present and the issue of taking players and not following guidelines was discussed. If this happens coaches are encouraged to report it through the correct process to the SYFA. If a scout from a senior club breaches the regulations report it to ESSDA. There was a general offer for anybody interested in going to a training session were hibs\ hearts coaches would lead us through their session.

If coaches don't take up the offer it will fade out. 60 coaches have taken up the offer from Hibs. There is an opportunity to build good contacts and details of the offer are on the SYFA web-page. SYFA AND SFA have agreed one player pathway and will deliver presentations. There will be consultation in each region.

Mark congratulated the Association and members on the increased participation of players. An audit, carried out every two years showed that this region increased by 500 players, up 1%, mainly due to 4-a-side and an increased number of girls teams. The number of clubs has decreased but the number of teams increased. There will be a full report on the website in the New Year.

The new brochure for coach education in 2010 was almost complete and should be on the web-site by mid-December. There is an early touches course in mid-January and a small sided games conference on Saturday 27th February, 12-4 @ the Hearts training academy. Hope to have details posted out to every team secretary before Xmas.

SFA will deliver a programme of support to coaches whose teams remain with the assoc after Xmas and will arrange a festival of football at Peffermill, depending on the number of teams.

Last year 17 teams achieved the quality mark this year 60 teams registered. An awards ceremony was held at Tynecastle prior to the start of the Hearts St Johnstone match for all clubs who successfully gained the quality mark..

8. Discipline

Roger. A page of the handout relates to the disciplinary process as it stands. The assoc is not geared up for hearings. There has been word of incidents between coaches, parents and players. Please try and settle it like adults The committee are signed up to do the fixtures and do not like dealing with phone calls and e-mails about abuse at a child's game of football. Avoid it or manage it yourselves.

9. emailphone no's on fixture lists

Roger said that it was agreed that clubs would avoid the use of mobile phone numbers. It was suggested that e-mail addresses be published along with phone numbers, they are already on the application form but not used. .

??? Suggested texts re fixtures was a lot easier as people can forget what was said in a phone call. E-mail may improve communications if they are kept internal to coaches.

John Brock mentioned an internet service called teamer which would send an e-mail to all parents or texts to their phones.

Roger said that he was happy to print e-mail addresses on fixture lists along with phone numbers.

10. www.esda.co.uk, webmaster@essda.co.uk

Roger reminded everybody that the website would be updated with any news including Mark's in-service dates. If there are problems with futsal applications, let Roger know.

11. AOCB

John Douglas Spartans asked Mark why a girl player couldn't play on Saturday and again in a boys team on a Sunday. Both teams are affiliated with the SYFA but David Little had said she can't play with both teams. It was argued that playing with the boys made her a better player. There was a risk of players over-playing. There may be a rule to protect players from overplaying. When she goes to 11-a-side she has been told to make a choice between girls or boys football. They may have different National associations and insurance. Mark Munro said that he would find out the reason and get back to John.

Ally Spartans There is pressure of losing players to other teams going 11-a-side At least 4 teams from Pele are going to 11's this will leave diluted leagues. He would like to know how many teams are staying 7's and if the leagues would be competitive.

The proposed Date of Next meeting is 7:30pm on 28th February 2010 at Jewel miners club. The date is still to be confirmed and will be posted on the website.