

**EAST OF SCOTLAND SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 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. There were no apologies. A record of attendance was circulated for signature.

2. Previous minutes:

Minutes of 31.05.09 were circulated along with the agenda. Roger apologised for the brevity. David Norris; Spartans proposed as an accurate record and Sandy Ritchie; Edinburgh City, seconded.

3. Treasurers report:

Louise circulated a copy of the financial record for year ending July 2009.

There was a **£2,422.07p** deficit of income over expenditure. The balance of funds brought forward offset the deficit leaving a balance at 31st July 2009 of **£3,989.89p** to be carried forward to the next financial year.

Louise asked that any outstanding fees be submitted to Tom Terrell.

4. Match secretary reports:

Under 12 match secretary: Brian Mackrell reported that 30 teams had applied and would be split into 3 leagues of 10 teams. He briefly mentioned the introduction of new rules, which would be addressed by Mark Munro.

Under 11 match secretary: Moray Dickson reported that 54 teams had applied and that Zidane and Beckham leagues would merge under Zidane. As three teams had submitted late membership applications the fixtures would have to be re-done and circulated later. Moray said that he had no coach details for Redpath Albion and Boroughmuir girls. Rules pertaining to teams at age under 11 would be handed out at the end of the meeting.

Under 10 match secretary: Tom Terrell reported that the number of teams applying were down on last year and that Zidane and Beckham leagues would merge under Zidane. Coaches with teams in Maradona league were advised to take note that the free week would now be played versus Cramond. Coach and contact details were advised. Some applications had been submitted late and some received tonight requiring fixtures for under 10's to be amended. Tom also mentioned that more and more coaches were giving mobiles as contact numbers. He emphasised that in these cases a coach giving a mobile number was responsible for arranging the fixture regardless of whether his own team was playing away from home. Coaches are encouraged to contact opposition coaches on Sunday or Monday evenings to arrange fixtures to accommodate teams training nights. Tom stated that he will not contact coaches with mobile telephone numbers as their point of contact and if coaches fail to contact Tom by Wednesday at the latest he will cancel the fixture.

Under 9 match secretary: Roger Oglesby had 46 teams apply and had nothing further to report.

Under 8 match secretary: John Brock reported that teams had increased from 38 last year to 68 this year. There was to be a change of format for 4's football and John asked that all under 8 coaches remain behind after the meeting to discuss the changes.

Sandy Ritchie; Edinburgh City, asked about the viability of futsal for the under 8's during January and

February as last year there was no programme. John said that they were looking to resolve this issue and would be looking for suitable venues.

Roger Oglesby reported that James Elliot had been voted in as General Secretary, however due to a change in circumstance he is unable to give the time required for the post. Roger said that he would fulfil the duties temporarily but asked for volunteers for the position of General Secretary.

5. Applications for season 2009-2010

Roger said that all member teams (ESSDA) are also associate members of the SYFA. It was stressed that teams who have not submitted forms to the SYFA will not be covered by insurance. The SYFA send a list of associate member teams to Roger and the list of teams is well down in every age group compared to the number of ESSDA member teams. This means that a lot of teams have not registered with the SYFA and do not have the insurance cover required.

The insurance itself covers injuries to players and liability to coaches. Players can receive a small sum for injuries.

James Reynolds; Huntersfield Boys club said that there was too much red tape at Hampden. He had been sent his ID number to log onto the SFA website to register, but the site refused his ID number and he was unable to log in. David Norris said that he experienced similar problems and it had taken 12 phone calls to Hampden to sort it out.

Roger said that it was problematic but that all teams have got to register with SYFA.

Hugh Jackson; Edinburgh City, was told by SYFA last year that the affiliation to SYFA ends on 1st July and all teams need to register for the new season. All forms require to be sent to Tom for signature.

David Norris; Spartans, said that from past experience it was unfair on teams who do register and that sanctions could be introduced for teams who have failed to register by the end of September. ESSDA should get in touch with teams who have failed to register and if they continue not to register they should be excluded and their fixtures become null and void and this should apply to all age groups.

Roger said teams must be insured to play. Teams can opt out of SYFA insurance but have to show that they have arranged other sports insurance equivalent to that provided by Sportsguard.

Tom said that age groups under 8,9,10 11s and 12's did not require a £1.28p stamped addressed envelope as SYFA would reply by e-mail with details of insurance.

6. SFA report - Mark Munro

Associate members

Mark Munro briefly explained that full SYFA members were entitled to vote on issues under debate and that there would be a lot to debate over the coming 12 months. Associate members would have no vote on these issues.

David Norris said that ESSDA would only get one vote on any issue and although they would be representing their members wishes, their voice would be heard, but they would possibly be outvoted.

Playing formats

Mark said that at 9's and 10's there is to be a safety zone. Opposition are encouraged to go back to the retreating line at 17metres, and not hem players in. Defenders should be encouraged to go high up the pitch towards the retreating line. When the defender takes a touch or the ball stops the opposition can come over the retreating line. This is the format adopted for the 11's and 12's last year and is now to be adopted by the 9's and 10's.

Mark referred to the diagram which is posted on the website and pointed out the 2, 3,1 formation. The opposition should retreat back to the line, defenders should be encouraged to go high and wide to give

more options, Goalkeepers are to be encouraged to throw/roll the ball out, they are not to kick it the length of the park. They are encouraged to control the ball with their feet and pass it out to quickly to mount a counter attack. Goalkeepers can throw or pass the ball out past the retreating line during open play, but where play has stopped they are to pass to defenders and build from the back.

At age under 12 the offside and pass back rules are to be introduced. Players can only be offside if they are between the retreating line and the goal line. There is no offside between the half way line and retreating line.

Mark gave information on 5 upcoming in-service days to be held in Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and the Borders.

John Douglas; Spartans, said that the pitches were not marked with retreating lines and he had no success trying to get the council to mark the lines.

Mark replied by saying that the council had agreed to mark out the retreating lines. He would go back to the council and request that the work is completed.

A member said that they had used the council's website to request the additional lines and the work was completed within 3 days.

Other options would be to use flat markers, poles at the side of pitch or white spray.

Mark Munro said that Midlothian were marking them and East Lothian have said they will do them and if coaches can't get the City of Edinburgh council to do them they should let Mark know.

Mark believed that the kids would pick up the changes within the first few weeks if we let them learn it and again invited coaches to come to the in-service days.

Mark said that the under 12's were to be congratulated with more than 30 teams remaining at 7-a-side. He vowed to support the teams and will hold an 11-a-side competition for these teams only in April at Meadowmill.

Mark said that 7 v7 training programmes had been developed and were on the website They would be distributed at the in-service day on Wednesday for free.

The 'Let them Play' pitch banners were a success and they can be bought through Colin Campbell for £60 - £65 for a 50metre banner or through Alistair Campbell at ACA Sports for £99 for both sides of the park.

The Football Central website is no longer current. The SFA website has a section dedicated to youth football featuring detailed skills sessions. The web address is Scottishfa.co.uk.

Full details of up coming courses are on the web site.

Mark invited further questions.

David thanked Mark for his input and continued support for ESSDA.

7. ESSDA aims and purpose

The last committee talked about the aims and purpose of the association. David said that it was our aim to involve children in Scotland's National Game in a safe environment. He further said that the committee is voted in but rely on everyone's support. Football matches shouldn't have to end in a punch up and we should all be big enough to be able to organise a game of football for young people without resorting to fighting. All coaches should be on their best behaviour to enable us to achieve our aim of providing a safe environment for the players.

Tom said that the deadline for applications was 1st August to allow match secretaries to produce their respective fixtures. The deadline had been put back a week but late applications were handed in on Wednesday, Friday and even tonight which means that Tom will have to re-do the fixtures for 10's. All

clubs are asked to submit their applications on time.

David Norris said that the committee bend over backward to ensure that children get to play football. Looking back over 10 years, it is the same clubs who fail to register in time. David said that he had once tried to exclude a club who were repeatedly late and was threatened with violence. He said that there should be sanctions in the future and suggested that if a club submits there application for membership late on three occasions they should not get in.

Roger said that the committee were volunteers here to help, and asked for suggestions.

It was suggested that at the next AGM it is proposed that any adjustment to the fixtures is completed at Xmas. Teams who submit late applications would miss the first three months of the season.

David said that nobody should suffer threats on match day and incidents should be reported to the committee. Violence will not be tolerated.

8. www.essda.co.uk, web-master@essda.co.uk

If anybody has any notices they should pass them to Roger who will put them up on the website.

9. AOCB

Moray said that an early touches course was being held at Liberton's ground on the 18th and 25th August. And supplied a contact number.

Tom asked that if only one person was r4epresenting their club could they please pick-up fixtures for all age groups.

Borders and West Lothian teams have been involved with Hearts with special discounts on admissions and taking part in half-time games. Anybody interested should e-mail Tom who will pass on details to Chalky at Hearts.

David said that he was holding a night to complete disclosures for Currie Star and is prepared to make available Carricknowe Golf club for coaches requiring disclosures completed. Sandy Ritchie; Edinburgh. City said that it had previously been said that Hampden would organise an additional signature session and it has not happened. Heather is waiting for Roger to contact her.

David asked that everyone sign the contact sheet,

Date of Next meeting: 7:30pm on 15/11/09 at Jewel miners club.