

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting  
June 18, 2003

Present: S. Bloom, S. Gorman, C. Goldstein, N. Hart, J. Linnehan, J. Burrill, T. Filippetti, H. Blatt, S. Smoller, J. Gondek, R. Braney, M. Singleton, K. Connors, M. Prata, R. Frongillo,

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. A quorum was declared present.

**Acceptance of April and May BOD minutes**

**John Burrill moved, seconded by Skip Gorman to accept the minutes as presented.** Motion passed unanimously.

**Mario Prata – report on Portugal Trip**

Mario took a boys' U-13 team to Portugal. Among the events during the trip there was a tournament. His team was divided into two teams. They played each other in the final for the trophy. Mario presented the tournament trophy along with a silver plate and banner that the team had received from their hosts to the Mass Youth board.

**Executive Director report**

The report was submitted via email and is appended to these minutes. Jim added that he had contacted five business colleges with the job description for marketing director. The colleges will post the job descriptions on their bulletin boards.

**Reports of Program Managers**

- State Cup – report submitted via email and appended below.
- MTOC – John Linnehan reported the committee is praying for good weather. They had lined up Devens as an alternative site, but had to commit by Tuesday and did not feel they could do so.
- Instruction – report submitted via email and is appended below. Howie added that the development coaches thanked the board for the bonuses they received. Mike Singleton will have the development coaches oversee the part-time instructional staff. He is reviewing the specialty clinics and manuals. Tom Goodman, national director of coaching, will visit Massachusetts July 1-3.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the districts program starts July 5.
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci reported most of Ryder Cup got rained out, so most of our teams did not get to play much. Mike Singleton watched the teams and feels we do not have the best talented players in the ODP program. The ODP directors from northern region 1 are planning to meet in the fall and, perhaps, have an event with some area colleges. The teams would play the college teams and the coaches can scout the players.
- SYRA – Rich Frongillo reported Brian Hall was in Massachusetts and attended the first week of State Cup. USSF has eliminated grade 11. John Linnehan commented on the miscommunications between the referee assigners for MTOC and the leagues. Both groups are hoping to rectify the situation in the future.

### **Financial / Budget overview**

Carl distributed projections on the budget to date. We are in very good shape.

### **Land Sale Update**

We have sold the parcel of land to David Hirsch. The money is being wired to our bank. We should net \$930,000 after commissions are paid and costs are covered. This completes step one. Paul Irwin's committee is meeting tomorrow night to begin step two. Work has commenced on the video to be used for fund raising. The committee is working with the consultants to get estimates on the total cost of the project. Region 1 may want to develop part of the site.

### **US Soccer/US Youth Soccer AGM issues**

Sid Bloom reported on the agenda for the upcoming annual meeting of these two groups to be held in Chicago. There is a \$.50 fee increase being proposed. Region 1 has decided to oppose this increase. The rationale for the increase is to replace revenue from loss of national sponsors. The consensus of the Mass Youth board was to vote no on the increase.

Election of officers: Tony Buiniskis, of New York West, is running for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, opposing the incumbent, Evelyn Gill. Sid would like to support Tony. Steve Smoller moved, seconded by Nancy Hart, that Mass Youth vote for Tony Buiniskis. Motion passed unanimously. There are two candidates for Treasurer, Dennis Brunfeld of West Virginia, and Perry Alexander from Kentucky. The board suggested the decision be left to Sid.

### **Old Business**

- None.

### **New Business**

- Calendars – Jim requested program managers provide dates in a timely fashion to prevent conflicts.
- July meeting – John Burrill moved, seconded by Terri Filippetti, to cancel the July board meeting. Motion passed 7-1.
- Region 1 league – John Burrill is director of the girls division of this league, which competes with the Super Y league. Upon assuming the position, there was no structure provided. The division is up and running with 15 teams from Massachusetts.
- Adidas Workshop – Skip reported we would be able to offer a \$25 fee for one-day visits to the workshop. We are providing one of the two breakfasts. Due to logistics of having to drive to Boston and pay for parking, we may not have the Mass Youth AGM take place as part of this event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Smoller,  
Secretary

**Addenda****1. Executive Director Report**

June 16, 2003

Memo To: Board of Directors

From: Jim Gondek

Subject: Executive Director Report – May 2003

During the months of April and May, the office supports several programs as well as remaining involved in its normal business activities. The following summaries current activity:

- On the Instructional front, even though we have moved past our traditional busy season, we use these weeks to catch up on the issuance of instructional licenses. In addition, the planning process has begun for our annual Coach Education Week that takes place in August. This year, we will stagger the “week” of instruction over a three week period and will utilize three sites, including one in Western Mass.
- In terms of the ODP Program, it has been a particularly busy period. Working with Jared Scarpaci, we have reduced the outstanding receivables for amounts due. During this time period we are also required to provide Region 1 with a list of players to attend Rider. The work on the ODP Yearbook comes to a conclusion with the development of the layout, proofreading and authorization to print. We are also working on the ID Camp receivables (about \$8K), making sure no player with an outstanding balance is allowed to go.
- Working with Carl and Sid, the office was also involved with a registration audit to identify areas for follow-up. This included a three-year comparison, by town, of registered players and adults. We also prepared a comparison of players by town, based upon their League participation. This gave us some interesting data as well as helping to verify affiliation compliance. We also provided the Leagues with periodic updates.
- At the request of John Burrill, the office provided administrative support for the 2003 Cup event.
- We have begun discussions with a third party administrator to assume responsibility for evaluating and making benefit determinations with regard to our self-funded medical plan. The expectation would be to have this service (currently projected as no added cost) in place to start the next fiscal year, adding an element of claim review expertise and removing a task from the office, freeing up additional time.
- We will soon begin issuance of the Fall 2003 registration packets, making some changes that surfaced as a result of the registration audit that had been conducted.
- We have started to prepare for the administrative tasks associated with the District Select program – uniform distribution and team fee collection.
- The Memorial Day weekend is a busy tournament season. We processed 79 permission to travel requests.

On general issues:

- The land sale closing for the Hirsh property was postponed and rescheduled a couple of times. It is now set for June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Efforts to move forward with plans to fund/construct the soccer complex on the remaining land have heightened. Paul Irwin is chairing a committee to revitalize the capital campaign effort. Carl Goldstein is working to secure additional information to assist the group get a better handle on the projected costs for the project. A couple of preliminary meetings have already been held to enable to group to proceed in timely fashion once the land sale closes.
- The budget process for next fiscal year has begun. A meeting of the Budget Committee was held in late May. Program Managers have received their budget worksheets, and budgets are to be submitted to my attention by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The May issue of *The Bay Stater* featured special supplements for State Cup and MTOC, as well as a Club tryout advertising supplement. Ad revenue generated for the issue exceeded \$39,000.

**2. State Cup Report**

**June 15, 2003**

**From: John Burrill**

Re; Snickers Massachusetts State cup 2003

Report

On a bright and sunny Father's Day Sunday June 15 the 2003 edition of the Massachusetts state cup championships were concluded. We had no problems to speak of and this ran just as expected.....oops that was last year's line. I think the operative words are that state cup mercifully came to a conclusion.

**Weather**

This area of the tournament needs substantial improvement. The weather was lousy throughout, worst every, with matches cancelled due to unplayable fields and loss of fields for the semi final and final. While the actual weather on finals weekend was good all the weather leading up to finals weekend was terrible. This cause a substantial disruption of the tournament, however despite all the problems we managed to survive, get all the matches on time and our state champions are excellent representatives of our state. We did some damage to the fields at Umass but this was really out of our control. Some fields at Umass are still unplayable and this could cause a serious problem for MTOC.

**Numbers:**

This year we had a total of 259 compete in state cup, an all time record when you take into account the elimination of the U-12 age group. A total of 277 Cup matches were played

**Format.**

This was year one of playing the 13's & 14's in the fall and I believe this worked quite well. It was also the first year of expanding the brackets for the 15's – 18's. This was probably not a good idea and I expect Terri will review the matter before making a final decision. My recommendation would be to go back to just an 8 team round robin format.

Seedings were done in early September (for the 13's & 14's) and late December (for the 15's & above) based on prior year's results and by a blind draw. I think it was improved over the previous year but some minor tinkering is still necessary. As it turned out approximately 75 % of the top 4 seeds made it into the semi finals.

Again this year there was minimal conflict with either the town league programs or the ODP program. I think coaches made a sincere effort to avoid conflict and we were able to keep some of the bigger town leagues updated with the scheduling of matches. This seems to work quite well

Due to the way the calendar fell this year we had more than our share of problems with high school graduation and both sets of college entrance exams, SAT's & ACT's. This coupled with all the cancellations from June 1 caused a greater number of matches to be played off site and much more work in scheduling.

**Administration**

With a new registrar coming on board it took a while to get up to speed but the addition of Kitty was a real benefit to the program. Her attention to detail and her follow up and follow through skills made things go quite smoothly. Again this year we made things a bit more difficult for her by permitting teams to submit rosters on the day they played. This gave team maximum flexibility and once everyone got used to the process, it went

well. This single biggest problem again this year remains the fact that people either fail to read, read poorly or pay no attention at all to the paperwork requirements. I do think this year we identified the correct people but things had to be repeated far too many times and folks asked questions that were answered in the distributions. I suspect this area will continue to be a headache. I have no current solution for folks reading skills or attention to detail.

Kitty did an outstanding job and had a staff of well-prepared volunteers to assist her. We eliminated several unnecessary steps as far as team registration goes and that went very well.

Terri Filippetti while in training to sit in the big chair kept track of all the yellow and red cards (far too many) as well as did the tabulations for the Fair Play awards (always my favorite).

The Region 1 paperwork requirements were a bit of problem as so many teams had to do the work which turned out to be unnecessary given that they are not moving on. But it does make things much easier for the teams going to Regionals. We were able to file all paperwork with Region 1 in a timely fashion.

The administration of off site matches turned out to be no problem.

One of the biggest plus continues to be the state cup score site on the web. This enabled us to keep everyone informed of the results on an up to the day basis and everyone seemed to appreciate this. A very good investment indeed. We were even able to post scores from Umass.

All information was distributed via e-mail and this system worked well. With few exceptions the right folks had the information and were able to act on it. This saved much money in mailings and enabled us to get timely information into the right hands quickly. An e-mail distribution list is essential to running this tournament at this stage.

#### Rules

This year the rules presented no problems.

Also I removed the cap of goals allowed so we do not have a team advancing which gives up 10 goals in a game but because of a cap only gets 5 recorded against it.

#### Referees

This area was a real strength of the tournament. Rich Filippetti handled all the assignment of officials for the challenge round portion of the tournament – approximately 140 matches. In all be a very few we had 3 officials for each match and all did a fine job. This was a very large administrative task but Rich handled everything in an outstanding manner. Quite frankly the challenge system would not work without Rich or someone with his dedication and attention to detail.

Marc Lameuroux assigned John Utter as head assigner for the tournament and John did an outstanding job. In his first year as State Youth Referee Administrator Marc did a fine job

The overall quality of officials was excellent throughout. We have lost some of most experienced officials due their success and advancement. However a new crop are coming along behind and doing a nice job.

The quality of the referees are a real strength of the program.

#### Competition

The competition was excellent. While there were some mis-matches in the early stages of the challenge round, many games were decided in overtime and some in Pk's. We moved to the golden goal for all challenge round and quarter, semis and final matches. Everyone seemed to like the system and we had a fair number of matches decided by the golden goal. The competition at the round robin was excellent and we had a few surprises as favored teams were beaten. The semis and finals were very well played and Massachusetts has an outstanding group of teams representing it at Regionals. I fully expect us to challenge for region championships in many age groups.

The competition was without incident this year. Matches were hard fought but within the rules and there were no incidents of any kind to report.

#### Site

Umass was once again the site however 8 fields on main complex were taken out of service so we had to use field on the main complex and well as fields behind the football stadium. These are ok and having two sites did not prove to be a problem. We were even able to accommodate the Amherst Youth program as well. The fields were in the best shape they have been in years.. The condition of the goals and nets were an issue. Much work needs to be done to rehab the goals and I have spoken to the administration staff about that. We went out and purchased several more sets of new nets so the condition of the nets has improved markedly. But the goals are in need or repair. .

Since this should be the last year of field rehab (unless they want to do the fields behind the football stadium) we should be all set for next year and can play most all the matches on the Boyden complex. We did have to disrupt the Amherst Youth program somewhat but all seemed to go alright. Our main contact, Al McKinnon, is retiring and I have no idea who his replacement will be. While we have an excellent working relationship with the administration at Umass time will tell with the new person. Or at least we did until this year with all the rain we did do some damage to the fields. I suspect given some dry weather and care they will all come back in good shape.

We used Umass kids to help on a contact basis and they did an outstanding job.

On Monday, June 9 I made the decision not to use the Umass fields for the semi finals and finals. Many were quite helpful in assisting me to secure additional fields and by Wednesday I had 6 fields at 5 locations for Saturday and 5 fields at 4 locations for Sunday. On Friday I made the decision to move from the 2 field complex due to weather, and I was able to secure a new field for matches on Saturday and Sunday.

We ended up using: Plymouth North High School, a grass field in excellent condition, Juventus Park in West Springfield, another grass field in terrific condition; Holyoke High School, Mansfield High School and Umass-Lowell all three new field turf fields and in excellent condition. All matches went off with out a hitch, each location was fully

staffed and the semi finals and finals were all played on terrific playing surfaces. There was added cost with this move, I expect no refund from UMass, however we did save on hotel expense, trainer expense and some incidental monies as well.

#### Trainers

Kathy Boyd of the UMass staff handled this and they were outstanding. We had ample staff on site and they were able to respond quickly and effectively when necessary. Many favorable comments were made about Kathy and her staff.

We were required to have a trainer at UMass-Lowell however the other sites went without a trainer and only 1 injury (a cut) required a hospital visit.

#### Concessions

UMass services provided these. The food was ok but a bit pricey for some. Most felt \$3.00 for a hot dog was a bit much. I did pass this along but prices remained the same.

We had two vendors selling various items, which seemed to be very well received.

#### Awards presentation

Even with the weather this was a real highlight. Kid and parents were very proud and the ceremonies were done with some style and pizzazz. Each site ran a presentation ceremony and Judy Withington, girls 18, John Matias, girls 17 and Jack Ullathorne, girls 14 attended the appropriate ceremonies.

The named cup presentations were again a big hit and permitting the teams to keep the trophy for a year went over quite well.

Medals were again given to the top 4 teams.

#### **Pop Up Tents**

These were outstanding, looked sharp and saved us money all in one. They are easy to put up and with sandbags are safe. This was a good investment.

#### Staff

This again was the real strong point of the tournament. There is just an outstanding group of folks who contributed their time, effort and dedication to make the event a success. Everything went off without incident and basically on time. Paperwork was accomplished with a minimum of disruption and hassle and the positive upbeat attitude of the staff prevented problems before they arose.

Kitty Connors, Ross Weaver, Paul Irwin, Kathy Irwin, Dave Westbury, Terri Filippetti, Rich Filippetti, John Utter, Rich Frongillo, Kathy Kelly, Jim & Marlene Gondek and Jillian Pierce and several others were instrumental in making the tournament a success and putting up with me. Of particular note are Kitty, Terri, Ross and Dave who basically did all the work and left nothing for me to do which fortunately I did not manage to mess up. They all managed to make me look good – a difficult task indeed.

Changes in the works for next year

Terri will be in charge.

Our State champions are

BOYS 13 INTER SC BOSTON

BOYS 14 INTER SC BOSTON

BOYS 15 INTER SC BOSTON

BOYS 16 FC GREATER BOSTON BOLTS

BOYS 17 FC GREATER BOSTON BOLTS also won Region 1 Director's league  
BOYS 18 TRI VALLEY EAGLES  
BOYS 19 FC GREATER BOSTON BOLTS  
GIRLS 13 FULLER HAMLETS  
GIRLS 14 WESTERN UNITED  
WILD CARD SOUTH SHORE SELECT  
GIRLS 15 WESTERN UNITED  
GIRLS 16 NOR'EASTER  
GIRLS 17 SOUTH COAST SCORPIONS  
GIRLS 18 STARS OF MASS  
GIRLS 19 FC GREATER BOSTON BOLTS  
Fair Play Winners 2003

**BOYS**

U-13 INTER - blue  
U-14 Western United  
U-15 South Shore United  
U-16 MPS  
U-17 Juventus

**GIRLS**

U-13 Nova  
U-14 Crusaders  
U-15 Western United  
U-16 Sporting Cristale (W)  
U-17 Spirit of MASS

**TITLE SPONSOR**

Snickers was once again the title sponsor for the event and is the national sponsor. Snickers was again most helpful and makes a positive overall contribution and impression. They provided water coolers for the winning teams and fair play awards for all age groups.

John burrill

**3. Instruction Program report**

**Instructional Program Report – 6/16/2003**

- Our new State Head Coach/Director of Coaching, Mike Singleton, joined us at the beginning of June. He has been working hard to familiarize himself with our existing programs and to get to know the Mass Youth Staff and Board of Directors. We warmly welcome Mike to the Instructional Program Team.
- All three development coaches have asked that I convey their sincere thanks and appreciation for the recent gifts given by the Mass Youth Board of Directors Executive Committee for their performance over the past 6 months, during the absence of a State Head Coach/Director of Coaching. Throughout that period, all three coaches stepped-up consistently to make sure that the Instructional Program continued to do it's job of offering high quality programs to our membership without interruption. It is important to mention that both Tara Pierce and Jim Gondek provided tremendous support to the Instructional Program throughout this period. They are to be sincerely thanked as well...
- The development coaches, Tara Pierce and Dean Conway, have all been working cooperatively over the past month to pull together the GOALS Program for this year. Sites so far set-up are Lowell, Lawrence, Cambridge, Somerville, Dorchester, and South Boston. An additional site that is currently being explored is Worcester. I have asked Dean Conway to work with Mike Singleton to assist in the process of familiarizing and integrating Mike into this year's GOALS Program.

- Planning has been completed for the August Coach Education Weeks. Sites planned are the Park School (Brookline), Lawrence Academy (Groton), and a fully donated location in Hampden, the Thornton Burgess Middle School.
- Planning for next soccer year's Regional Youth Conferences (4?) has started. Consideration is being given to the idea of integrating the annual C.E.D Meeting with one of these conferences.
- The next issue of the Soccer LINK, our newsletter sent out to all of our Coach Education Directors (C.E.D.s), will be coming out in the next week or so. This is the first issue that will be sent out electronically. The decision to go electronic was made with the idea that this would enable Soccer LINK to reach more people, help our C.E.D.s to more easily distribute LINK, and save considerably on printing and mailing costs. Our corporate sponsor for LINK was contacted for their approval of the format change. Originally the hard copy of Soccer LINK went out only to our C.E.D.s who were then responsible to distribute the info along to their local coaches.
- Tom Goodman, USYSA Director of Coaching Education, will be coming to Massachusetts during the first week in July. Mike Singleton and the Instructional staff have been working to put together three "coach nights" during which Tom will do floor demonstrations, a Power Point presentation, and Tom and Mike will lead an open discussion session with those in attendance. Wilbraham, Salem, and Stoughton have been chosen as the three sites for these events and they will take place on June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will also provide Mike an opportunity to gain some exposure to our membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howie Blatt  
MYSA Director of Instructional Programs