

**Valley District Soccer Association  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
Research Station – Kentville  
February 25, 2007**

**1. Welcome and Attendance**

Keith Fuller called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and welcomed those present:

Club and League Representatives:

John Bedard (Kings West)	Kevin Wamboldt (Annapolis Royal)
Mick Murray (West Hants)	Joanne Levy (Gaspereau)
Greg Turner (Digby)	Mark Sawler (Somerset)
Keith Fuller (New Minas)	John Gordon (Wolfville and East Kings)
John Bedard (Valley United)	Mike Shaffelburg (Port Williams)
Stephen McNeill (VSSL/VMSL)	Pat Seaboyer (Valley Senior Women)
Jade Cavanaugh (Ladies 7 A-side)	

VDSA Executive:

Keith Fuller (President)	Dwight MacLeod (Executive Director)
John Gordon (Vice President)	Mark Sawler (Treasurer)
Jillian Morine (Registrar)	Mike Shaffelburg (Technical Co-ordinator)
Stephen McNeill (Competitions Director)	Casey VanderToorn (Referees Director)

Others Present:

Paul King	Lawrence Garner
George Athanasiou (SNS CEO, ex officio)	

**2. Minutes of 2006 AGM February 26, 2006.**

John Gordon moved they be approved as written, Jillian seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Directors Reports:**

Keith Fuller read the President's report (attached). Mark Sawler moved to adopt the report, Casey VanderToorn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Stephen McNeill read the Competitions Report (attached). John Gordon moved to adopt the report. Jillian Morine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dwight MacLeod read the Executive Director's report (attached). John Gordon moved to adopt the report. Seconded by Mark Sawler. Motion carried unanimously.

Casey VanderToorn read the referees report (attached). There was some discussion on the fees paid to referees. They will stay the same but next year they will ask for changes to traveling costs. Requests should come to the VDSA executive and then be brought to the VDSA Board for approval.

Stephen MacNeill moved to adopt the report, Greg Turner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Consideration of Financial Statements**

The Treasurer, Mark Sawler presented the financial statements of the VDSA (attached) to the members. Dwight Macleod noted that it was a "review statement". Mark Sawler moved that the financial report be accepted, John Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Sawler introduced the budget for 2007. There was a discussion concerning the funding for the new Technical Director position which had not been included. It was agreed that until the figures were finalized they should not be included and that the budget could be amended at a later board meeting. Jillian Morine moved to approve the proposed budget, Stephen McNeill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

George Athanasiou addressed the Board on the topic of the technical director position stating that the increase in fees for this position would be money well spent and that the Board members should look to the interests of the District as a whole. George also expressed concern that clubs should have the right to not to participate. Keith Fuller reminded the Board that the proposal provided for a two year commitment. This will allow the District to move forward. The deficit caused by those clubs not participating, could be covered by the VDSA surplus.

#### **5. Election of Officers**

Keith Fuller turned the meeting over to the CEO of Soccer Nova Scotia, George Athanasiou, to preside over the election of officers:

There were no nominations for the position of Vice President. The position was declared vacant.

George asked for nominations for the position of secretary. John Gordon nominated Paul King. John Bedard seconded the nomination. Paul accepted the nomination. George asked for any other nominations three times. Hearing no further nominations he declared Paul King the new secretary.

George asked for nominations for the position of treasurer. Stephen McNeill nominated Mark Sawler. John Bedard seconded the nomination. Mark Sawler accepted the nomination. George asked for any other nominations three times. Hearing no further nominations he declared Mark Sawler the treasurer.

George asked for nominations for the position of referee representative. Stephen McNeill nominated Casey VanderToorn. Greg Turner seconded the nomination and the nomination was accepted. George asked for any other nominations three times. Hearing no further nominations he declared Casey VanderToorn the referee representative.

Keith Fuller thanked Colin Hines and John Gordon for their time and efforts in serving on the VDSA Executive during 2006.

#### **6. Appointment of Auditors**

The Treasurer, Mark Sawler, informed the Board that the VDSA Executive has a good working relationship with the current auditors and there is no reason to change. Jillian Morine made a motion to re-appoint Grant Thornton as our auditors for 2007. John Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Questions from the Floor**

The President, Keith Fuller, gave a brief summary of the VDSA Board meeting which had immediately preceded the AGM, in particular with regard to the VDSA Strategic Plan and the hiring of a full time Technical Director, based on the revised proposal which had been previously circulated. John Bedard inquired if it would be possible to vote on this issue at an AGM. It was agreed that since there was nothing to the contrary contained in the VDSA by-laws, there could be a vote and that it would be most expedient to proceed rather than call another meeting. Further discussion followed. Jade Cavanaugh asked if the services of the Technical Director would be available to senior players. It was agreed that since the levy was District wide, all players should have access, although the focus of the position was mini and youth. Casey VanderToorn asked if a club could opt out of their percentage of the surplus as well. It was agreed that the spending of the surplus is determined by the majority. Mick Murray expressed concern over the fact that the proposal had not addressed some of the concerns that had been raised. Keith Fuller reminded the Board that the proposal had been revised and re-circulated three days prior to the AGM.

John Bedard put forward a motion that the VDSA move ahead with the hiring of a full time Technical Director in accordance with the revised proposal which was circulated prior to the meeting (attached) and subject to any deficit arising as a result of the non-participation of one or more clubs being made up out of the VDSA surplus funds. John Gordon seconded. There was an amendment to the motion, namely that there be a cap on the amount of surplus that can be used to make up the deficit, namely \$10,000 in total over 2 years. The motion was carried as amended, unanimously. The West Hants representative was not present for the vote.

## **8. Adjournment**

John Gordon made a motion to adjourn at 4:10 pm.

**Valley District Soccer Association**  
**Annual General Meeting - February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**President's Report**

The year 2006 has been a productive one for the Valley District Soccer Association and its member clubs. Having identified the need for a strategic planning exercise to develop longer term goals for soccer within the Valley District, a number of meetings were held between January and April of 2006. This included a preliminary meeting for representatives from all clubs as well as strategic planning sessions that were held at the Kentville Research Centre (East Kings, Kings West, Gaspereau, Port Williams, New Minas, Wolfville SA's), Digby Civic Centre (Digby, Clare and Annapolis SA's), Greenwood Recreational Centre (Kingston/Greenwood, Middleton, Bridgeton, Berwick SA's) and Avonview High School (West Hants and Hantsport SA's).

At these meetings, a series of goals were identified and the VDSA executive has worked hard to bring a number of these goals to fruition. These include the development of a mission statement with goals and objectives, the production of the VDSA's first policies and procedures manual, a proposal for a dynamic and interactive new website as a key communication tool for the administration and governance of soccer at all levels in our organization and a proposal for a full time technical employee to address the District wide need for player and coach development.

Our 2006 summer league was once again very successful with teams from different areas of the District advancing to provincials. In our youth league we continue to face challenges in producing a formula for even strength teams and to address scheduling issues related to travel distances and field availability. On a positive note, our District was successful in lobbying our governing body to introduce separate A and B Provincial Championship for the U14 Tier 2 league competition. Our 2006 winter league season was also very successful with teams from as far as Digby and West Hants participating in league games at the District's VSMP Facility.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board and Executive members for their support and in particular, for the many hours of volunteer time that they have given up in furthering the game of soccer in the Valley District.

Respectfully submitted

Keith Fuller  
2006 President: Valley District Soccer Association

**Valley District Soccer Association**  
**Annual General Meeting - February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Executive Directors Report**

**Key Points of 2006 season:**

**Registration:**

Last year saw the District register a record 5138 participants ranging from U-6 through to Masters division.

Most clubs now seem to have the IT system worked out thanks in large part to the in-services of our Registrar Jillian Morine.

**Clinics:**

Last year the VDSA held various coaching clinics as put on by Soccer Nova Scotia. Of particular interest was the well received mini-coaching clinics that were staged free of charge. A big thanks to Soccer Nova Scotia for their efforts.

**Goal-keeping clinic:**

For the third year in a row, the District sponsored a keeper clinic which was held on a user pay system. 32 participants took part in the 8 week sessions.

**Discipline:**

Last year, the VDSA dealt with a handful of Disciplinary hearings. With the help of Soccer Nova Scotia and the further education of referee reporting, we are able to treat violators as set out by SNS standards.

**Indoor League:**

This past year has seen a record number of teams register to play in the indoor league, broken down as follows:

Youth ( U-12 –U18 )	41
Senior Men	8
Senior Women	9
Masters Men	5
7 Aside ladies	12

With the 2007 summer season fast approaching, the District remains very pro-active in pursuing the goals that clubs have set out in the Strategic plan such as:

- A strong mission statement
- A Policy and Procedure manual
- A new dynamic and inter-active web-site
- Continued coaching education
- Working with the referee association towards the betterment of officiating for all

In closing, I would like to thank all for their support and look forward to working with, and for you as we continue to move forward within this great District.

Dwight MacLeod

**Valley District Soccer Association**  
**Annual General Meeting - February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Competitions Director's Report**

**Tournaments-**

Reminder that anyone wishing to host a tournament during 2007 must apply to do so by March 1. Tournament applications must be accompanied by a bond of \$250.

**Provincials-**

Reminder that the deadline for applying to host a provincial championship is March 1. Remember that provincials are applied for by the district (not individual clubs) and are awarded to the district.

**Leagues-** The following leagues were run through the VDSA during 2006. Number of teams involved are in brackets.

Masters (8)	Ladies 7-aside (18)	Sr B Men (6)
Sr. B Women (8)	U-18 Boys (5)	U-18 Girls (9)
U-16 Boys (11)	U-16 Girls (12)	U-14 Boys (12)
U-14 Girls (16)	U-12 Boys (22)	U-12 Girls (14)

The district also set up league schedules for 33 U-10 teams and 35 U-8 teams. Some clubs ran their own in-house programs at these levels and most clubs also ran a U-6 program. All together, just over 5100 players were registered by the VDSA for the summer of 2006, an increase of about 150 from the previous year.

Winter registration for the indoor leagues this year is over 1200 players, also up about 150 from 2005-06. Of interest, almost half of these registrations are senior players.

**Valley District Soccer Association**  
**Annual General Meeting - February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**  
**Referee Director's Report**

Presidents: Casey VanderToorn & Scott Aikman

Secretary: Amanda Lombard

Chief Referee: Larry Porter

Assignors:

Vaughan Veinot (West Hants & Hantsport)

Amanda Lombard (East Kings to Kentville)

Jenette Ross (Coldbrook to Somerset)

Graham White (Greenwood to Bridgetown)

Greg Turner (Digby)

There was 143-registered referee in the Valley District for the 2006 season. We were extremely busy and were able to supply referees for almost all games. For those games that required three officials, we did our best, and were able to accomplish that approximately 85% of the time. There is a need to develop more officials in the West Hants area and the Western part of the region.

The Valley Kickoff, Gunn and the New Minas tournaments again stretched the referees to their limit in numbers.

37 officials (1st and 2nd year were mentored)

For the 2007 season we are scheduling a level three clinic on the last weekend of April (27, 28 & 29).

Our annual refresher (mandatory) was held on May 6 followed by the referee Annual General Meeting.

Election of new officers: President and vice-president.

Those referees (level 1, 2 and those wanting to officiate in the NSSL) will have their first fitness test May 15.

Areas of concern

1. The Region is so large that we have very little communication with the Western end (Annapolis, Digby, and Weymouth).

2. The travel allowance for referees is too small. Looking to the South Shore, they have a mileage rate of \$0.34/Km over 30 kilometers return. We are looking at a similar allowance.

3. Assigning fees for cancelled games. All other areas of the province pay the assignors fee for cancelled games. We would like similar consideration.

4. Referee game fees (George?)