

BLUE RIDGE CLASSIC LEAGUE MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

ATTENDANCE

BRCL REPS

Butch Johnson

Linda Kemppainen

Paul Radike

CLUB REPS

Hank Furry	East River	Lisa Walker	AHUSC	Harry Lance	PYSL
Pat McHugh	VAFC	Duke Cochran	VAFC	Joe Gallo	BUYS
Todd Murrill	FSC	Mark Anderson	NRVSA	Bill Quillian	LUS
Jim Sanborn	FCGS	Bobbi Simonson	BRSA	Marc Nicholls	RVYSC

OTHERS

Nicki Bunn

BRCL CC

Jennifer Renner NRVSOA

Mike Renner

NRVSOA

There were no minutes to approve from the last meeting. Nicki Bunn volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS – Butch Johnson

Competition – Butch will email the time and place for the spring Competition Committee meeting. He encourages member clubs to send representation to the meeting. Butch mentioned that there might be growth for the BRCL in the form of new clubs.

Conduct – Butch covered Conduct Committee business in the November meeting except for two suspensions from all BRCL activities for the following members from BUYS: Anthony LePore – suspended for 2 years through the end of the Fall '05 season whereby upon request he may be reinstated for failure to follow BRCL Policies and Procedures and failure to reply to directives from the BRCL Conduct Committee
Hamid Sassanijad – suspended for 1 year beginning January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2004 for failure to follow BRCL Policies and Procedures and failure to reply to directives from the BRCL Conduct Committee.

Additionally, a follow-up referencing the VYSA Board meeting minutes on the parent, Charles David Akers, that pointed a rifle at a VAFC coach – he is completely suspended from all soccer activity (see <http://vysa.com> secretary's report/meeting minutes)

TREASURER – Joan Shuman

Our sympathies to Joan Shuman whose uncle passed away and thus she is with family in Long Island, NY.

Paul reported that he and Joan have been working closely on the Treasurer's Report and developing financial guidelines for the future officers to access. Paul did not have the actual report but noted that the changes forthcoming included "two month" reviews with summaries. Also, the final payment was made to Joe Bear and the check was cashed.

REGISTRAR – Linda Kemppainen

Linda is proud to report that the BRCL has hit an all time record 1700 players registered since she has been the league registrar. She is encouraged that that number will grow with the additional players in the spring. Linda reviewed the latest revision of the member report. Pat McHugh questioned why the 83 Danville players not in the BRCL were on the report. Linda remarked that these players play in NC and in order to do that must be registered with their club in their home state. Danville has 3 teams in the BRCL.

Linda asked if there were clubs planning to enter new teams in the spring. Hank noted that East River had plans to add a u14 girl's team. Linda advised to make sure that the club goes through the state of West Virginia to roster the team and then forward the papers to her.

SECRETARY – Rhonda Potter

Report not available.

ADMINISTRATOR

Report not available as position is vacant.

PRESIDENT – Paul Radike

Paul distributed his outline titled "BRCL Hit List January 2004". The highlights are as follows:

BRCL Business Administrator Search Committee will meet this Thursday to review the two qualified candidates and prepare the committee for the interview process. Informal interviews will be conducted with each candidate to select one. An emergency board meeting for approval of this selected individual will expedite getting someone in the position.

VYSA Workshop Feb. 6 & 7 at the Richmond Centre in Richmond has great information for clubs, coaches, referees.

The BRCL official logo was presented and unanimously voted in. A change in color from fall to spring was recommended for the divisional championship patches. Change this year from green and gold to red and blue. A Sportsmanship Metal was presented with hopes that these can be implemented next season (not likely in the spring '04).

The New 2004 timeline is available now on the BRCL website. The timeline is a roadmap for the season and for the first time, now related to the BRCL Policies and Procedures Manual.

Check out the Scorekeepers Report now on the website. Juergen Gerlach must be commended for the great information in this summary of the fall season.

BRCL MAIN CONTACT LIST for the website is under construction. This list needs to be updated To include current officers, committee members, directors and alternate directors, assignors, registrars, field coordinators, as well as future links to coaches and managers for member clubs.

The Referee Committee is NOW forming. Paul thanked Mike and Jennifer Renner for their attendance at the BRCL meeting and for volunteering to go back to the referee community and present our league's desire to improve the communications between the league and the area referee relationships. Jennifer thought that some of the older referees might be interested in chairing this committee. She requested the section of the BRCL Policy & Procedures Manual be copied to all area assignors so that they would also take this to their contacts in the referee community for discussion.

The Referee/Club/League Summit is planned for mid February. Mike Renner noted that the first two weekends in February his area referees will be deployed, thus those are not working dates for them.

Our website is averaging 250 hits per day. Please visit and note the weekly changes @ www.brclsoccer.org This website is a tool you.

Paul mentioned that there are possibly 5 teams from a club in Charlottesville considering a move to the BRCL and possibly more teams from the Shenendoah Valley to follow next fall. Butch elaborated on the possibilities for a northern and a southern division with interdivisional friendlies where both parties were in competition agreement. It may be that we will see friendlies as early as this spring. The possibility for neutral game sites was noted as well as the feasibility of back to backs. Team participation forms will be revised to include feedback to the scheduler on teams willing to participate in friendlies. New procedures will be amended to the P&PM to include how friendlies are implemented.

Linda and Joan attended the VYSA Travel Summit in Richmond on Nov. 1. The report was ready for the last BRCL meeting but was not presented due to time constraints. Paul has the report in electronic format and will email it. It explains a new initiative from the state to address classic players and the need for interleague competition. Linda Sadler will head this up. Northern VA already has this in place for premier players. For teams willing to travel further it will mean more

competition for classic level players. This does not preclude ODSL games. Gary is currently getting on board with this program.

The Richmond Summit Report revealed that three years ago VYSA dropped the Girl's Western Region Travel Commissioner. Paul will propose for this position to be reinstated at his next VYSA meeting. Nominations will be taken for the election of the Boy's Western Region Travel Commissioner's position. This position meets on the third Wednesday of every month except July in Richmond, VA. Please consider running for this critical position as the primary link between the leagues in our area and the state.

Paul reported on current "Rules & Procedures Modifications and Additions" which include changes on the team participation forms to include policies and compliance rules for BRCL and non-BRCL teams. These games will be treated as league games where compliance is concerned. As for BRCL Division Selection and Scheduling Timeline and Scheduling Standards, Butch noted that scheduling these games takes more effort and cooperation than league games and hence these games need to be treated like league games in all aspects except they will not be counted in standings. Butch note that in the past forfeits on friendlies were forgiven as we did not have a policy to address friendlies. Currently policy is being devised to address friendlies. Butch is working towards a goal of 6 teams per division/bracket for next fall to guarantee a minimum of 10 games. Paul added that where it makes sense the scheduling would reference a model or outline whereby a weak team would be considered to play down where a strong team (undefeated) might play up with one or more teams. These interdivisional games will achieve soccer success in player development.

In regard to BRCL Financial Policy and Operations – Paul noted these additions, changes are key.

Conduct Committee is working on a blueprint.

Paul welcomes any input(email) on the above mentioned modifications to policy.

Paul presented the current issues concerning the responsibility of the Conduct Committee Chair being handled by the Vice President of Operations. He suggested the creation of and outlined the responsibilities of a new executive board officer position for the Conduct Committee Chair (to include Sportsmanship) to distribute the workload and allow (free up time for) the Vice President of Operations to better concentrate on respective initiatives of the VP's position. Linda K. made the proposal for this newly created Eboard position. Todd Murrill seconded the motion.

The discussion proceeded concerning the issue of small-sided games for u12 proposed for Fall '04 season. While it is a heated debate and not universal within the state between the recreation and travel soccer leagues, it is recommended strongly at the national level and developmentally sound. Linda asked which member clubs were planning u12 teams and opened this issue for discussion. Mark Anderson on behalf of NRVSA was opposed to the change for the '04 Fall season due to the concerns his club has regarding field requirements. He thought they might be in favor the Fall '05 given more time to adjust fields. Marc Nicholls said it's the right thing to do for the kids and we should push it through. Roster size was discussed and Linda said the maximum roster size would remain the same but clubs are welcome to make their own recommendations to number of players for u9 through u12's. Linda further remarked that there is no upper limit to the number of teams within an age bracket that each member club may roster. Marc Nicholls proposed that u12 8v8 use a three-man referee system and a field size 50x70 as minimum standard (subject to further study on field size). Lisa stated that it would be advantageous to go ahead and vote so that the smaller clubs might begin to plan accordingly. The proposal for u12's for Fall 04' season to play 8v8 with a three-man referee system on a 50x70 field was voted on and passed 65-20. Linda suggested that the club representatives take this information back to their clubs.

NEW BUSINESS

Duke mentioned that VAFC is hosting a USSF "E" license class Feb. 20-22 and a USSF "D" next spring. Check the VYSA website.

Hank invited everyone to the Mountain State Invitational the first and second week of April in Blue Field, WV. He is going to mail Paul the website link. He mentioned many prominent college teams who come to showcase their talent and many u17 teams that come because they know the recruiters are there. It's a unique format and an opportunity to catch awesome soccer.

Linda made a policy proposal change request to add to Section 2.2 of the Policies and Procedures Manual a requirement for clubs to submit their Officers List, club bylaws, and club

policies and procedures to the BRCL Administrator by September 1st. Changes would be required to be submitted to the BRCL Administrator if made during the seasonal year as well. This information is already in the BRCL bylaws and a motion was made to add it to the P&PM as well. This information is critical for use by the BRCL Conduct Committee. Linda proposed and Bill Quillian seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve.

Meeting adjourned 8:20?