Shaler Soccer Club

Annual General Meeting

11/08/2023 – 6:30PM – 8:00 PM

Shaler Township Building – In Person

AGENDA

* Call to Order – 6:30 PM
  + WELCOME! We are glad you are here!
  + Nick Druga – Club president
  + Reflections for the year
    - Without question, these are the most people that we have at the meeting, we have Quorum
    - On many different fronts – we have had the most folks registered
    - It shows and it is reflective
    - We’ve had more wins and more goals the past 2 seasons than we have ever had
    - What we do – the people that are present – it matters what we do
* Motion to Accept of the Minutes of the last General Meeting
  + Motion: Joshua Dadeboe, 2nd Amy Proie
  + Motion accepted -
* Reading of Annual Reports
  + Treasurer
    - This has been a great year, continues to be a great year
    - With the change in interest rates – we have not gotten much over the year, this year we have gotten about $3K this year
    - Uniforms and referee fees are paid
    - Costs will stay the same – it has been 3 years that we have been able to maintain our registration cost
    - Investments
      * Parking lot striping/maintenance
      * Replaced old equipment
      * Increasing supply of soccer ball, nets due to increased registration
      * Cleaning service at Denny to keep the restrooms clean
      * Display refrigerator – been delivered 2x and has been broken 2x
      * Any questions on the budget? None
  + Registrar
    - Our numbers have been amazing!
    - We try to keep our kids coming back through the different things we do
    - Main seasons – Fall and Spring
      * Also offered UGKA Keeper training – Fall, Spring, Summer
      * Summer pick up
      * Complete Moves
      * Winter Bootcamp style training (U13 and up)
      * Winter InHouse Futsal (U8-U12)
      * Plum Classic
        + 6 Teams registered this fall
      * Fox Chapel Moonlight Madness (U10)
      * PA West Open Tournament
        + 3 Teams registered
        + 2 of the boys teams came home champions
      * Winter FUTSAL season
        + PISA
        + Marx sports time tournaments (Elizabeth)
    - Travel and Intercommunity Leagues
      * Overall Reflections
      * Age groups have winning seasons and some don’t have winning seasons
      * Don’t want to see staggeringly high win rates – we want to see healthy competition
      * The level of training – a lot more has gone into the training (academy style)
      * The last piece – as we continue to mature across not only SSC but PA West
        + We will see team building exercises that put more “like” teams together
        + Classic Bell Shape – Teams on both ends getting what they need as well as the ones in the middle
      * VP Inhouse – Ben
        + Went well – Parent involvement has been great
        + Last few weekends of the season, the concession stand was closed
        + It was a great time for Halloween
        + Had some cold and rainy days – overall we had some really great days
        + Comment: Could we get more parents to RSVP that they will be at the games?

As we continue to talk through organization and instruction- we want commissioners to be laser focused on getting folks

* + - * TOPS soccer
        + Shaler continues to be the showcase
        + Seneca Valley and Deer Lakes have come in to see how we run our program to be buddies
        + We continue to build out our
        + We are going to be offering a winter program for TOPSoccer – Thursdays on Jan/Feb to be a buddy (13 or older)
        + TOPS registration will be out by the end of this week
        + Typically, we host North Hills, Fox Chapel and Pine Richland to have more people in Shaler participate
        + If we have the new bylaws accepted – we will have a director of TOPSoccer into the organizational structure
        + Flyer for TOPSoccer
      * Parent Involvement
        + 301 families – almost 700 kids total
        + 253 Checks destroyed
        + 48 not doing the volunteer hours

Most are TOPS, Travel

4th season – coach

1 of 4 for 4 teams – coaches

Coaches are always welcome to jump into the season midway through- absolutely (enter the process at any time)

Encourage the parents – reach out or have them reach out!

Must have 2 cleared coaches at every field

* + - * + Made substantial progress
        + Some folks make it as a donation due to interest or time, the end of the season really had the volunteering fall off
        + About half of the slots were w
        + 578 out of 819 that slots were filled – we want to make sure that there are a lot of opportunities
        + 48 of the no completions included only folks completed the season
        + Coaches were required – would be offended that that I had to turn in a check. Re: Coaches were quitting
        + Was offended – for a half second – and then understood what is takes to have the kids on the field (2 coaches required, etc.)
        + We don’t know people that are volunteering for coaching and if we don’t get a “commitment” and I just don’t’ show up, there will be a team that won’t be able to play
        + Have coaches that have volunteered and then don’t do clearances

There is a little bit of work involved – but you are good for 5 years

* + - * + Have discussed pros/cons – trying to figure out how make it most fair and still make sure that folks are there
        + Understand the feeling – you are seen and heard
        + Kicking around – only opening the registration for the number of kids that we have coaches to support
        + Usually the coaches have a kid that coaches – earn my money back
        + Affinity is the largest issue with clearances – scheduling games is 30 minutes
        + Level the playing field – keep all the checks until the end based on the feedback we have received
        + Coaches – Clearances/safe sport – knew what he was getting into – did you have a number that didn’t do the clearances

1 – yes we absolutely have it

2 – For years, we would do 2 coaches meeting

New to Coaches – this season we would walk you through the steps, XYZ

Coaches meeting – this is how many coaches we have

If you haven’t done the process, how many folks are overwhelmed?

82 coaches: 11 out of 82 are new – 5 backed out after they got their clearances

Get the

* + - * + Spring Fling – want to have a spring fling for the U8 kids

This would be fun for the kids to have a spring fling tournament

U8boys/U8 girls and kick it up a notch with community involvement (VOLUNTEERS!)

Working through getting an email out to the parents to form a parent committee who like to work on events to help/support for registration, sponsorship, set-up/clean-up etc.

Look to have it in May – not the Pittsburgh Marathon weekend – will be during the normal time – play more games – 3 games per team

If we have a big U8 Group – then yes, if we don’t we can invite community teams

Don’t have to be in person – can do over zoom and meet to put together

If we don’t get enough volunteers – we don’t have it

If we get enough volunteers – we will have a GREAT event

Something what the U8s will never forget

* Unfinished Business
* Reports of the President and Vice Presidents
* New Business
  + Voting on Bylaw and Constitutional Amendments
  + Election of Executive Board
* Adjournment

Call to Order – Nick Druga – 6:30PM – Have quorum

Presentation of and motion to accept the Minutes of the last General Meeting  
  
Reading of the annual Reports (Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Administrators, TOPSoccer, PDC)

* Treasurer
* Secretary role
  + Registration campaigns
  + Social Media
  + Weekly Communication letters
  + Fields meeting with the township – gotten fields back
  + Increased indoor spaces and sitting in a better place permit-wise
  + As we continue to grow, it will be our challenge to stay in touch with the club with the right messages
  + Talked with township commissioner about more space behind Denny
    - Township manager is retiring at the end of this year, new going in at the beginning of this year
* Registrar
* Administrators’ Report – Courtney Bianchi (travel), Jess Destefano (in house)
  + Courtney
    - Really good season
    - More difficult than COVID
    - Game Schedules came out later than normal
      * This season we had a couple of weeks that we had a couple games 9v9 and 11v11 sometimes we had to put multiple games at Glenshaw valley
      * Ref scheduler wants to have 2 games in a row at Glenshaw valley (not waste their refs time)
      * Separate 11 v 11 and 9 v 9 in the spring due to not having Glenshaw valley.
      * Try to limit wear pattern – alignment
      * Field conditions have been better condition
    - Referee scheduling
  + Jess – not here tonight
    - The in-House program
    - Some coaches walked away during the season, which is hard once the ratios are set
    - Had the same amount of parent engagement with double the kids
* TOPSoccer
  + By far Nick’s favorite team to coach out of four
  + Buddies – one from Shaler, North Hills and North Allegheny that are there weekly
    - The kids are there for their TOPS player
    - Rewarding for them and the players
  + There are a lot of kids that would benefit
  + Great partnerships – Blackhawk, Norwin,
  + Talk with all presidents about the
  + Nice TOPSoccer Shaler SC flag – coming soon for that program
  + Getting captains arm bands for the buddies
    - Distinguish them
    - Connect them
  + If you want to get involved, Nick would be glad to give you more information
  + 12/3, 9AM – 12PM (10 kids will be there)– TOPS soccer from Western PA – close to 50 kids coming for a 1 day festival
* Unfinished Business
  + No Unfinished Business identified
* Reports of the President and Vice Presidents
  + VP Travel – Julie McDermott
    - Any further reflections – big thing that we added this year – added age group commissioners
    - Will continue to utilize that as a role
    - Coaches – we need you and we appreciate you, especially those that continue to come back
  + VP In House – Ben Sheets
    - All good
  + Attestation to the budget
    - VP attest to the audit of the budget
    - Steve: Yes
    - Julie: Yes
  + President
    - Vision 2024 –
      * Fun
        + Want to make sure that everything that we are doing is fun for the kids
        + Have to leave the field with a smile on their face
        + Continue to ask for the support from the coaches – loading into affinity
      * Development
        + Really would like us to continue to enhance our coaching education
        + The club will reimburse ¼ of the cost of grassroots – 9v9 – get a quarter back each season – to pay off over the 4 seasons

2 hours online and 2 hours on the field

Housed on USYS

If we have a big enough group to do it, we could host a training session

Fox Chapel, Plum, New Kensington have hosted in the past

* + - * + We don’t have a lot of coaches that go through that training
        + Can’t make it a requirement – but if you are with the club long enough, you would benefit from the training
        + Had Coach Erik – UGKA – to coach the coaches for goal keeping to give everyone a head start
        + PA West started a coaching in the community

Can come in and do the workshop here

How much more effective would we be if we focus on that earlier?

Continue to bring in

* + - * Competition
        + Adapt the team building to align with the North Division of PA West
        + Tried different team building to place players to build
        + We know what we have – and do that in good faith – but not every other team followed suit
        + PA West continues to work to align team correctly and we will do the same in Shaler
      * Community
        + Want to have community events
        + Invite first responders
        + Food drives through the season
        + Get the soccer club together not necessarily for soccer
        + Keeping the community and the players/families engaged and together

You don’t know what will be missed when that family or player leaves

* New Business
  + Re-write of bylaws to align to 501(c) 3 classification
    - Have the proposed the new bylaws
    - Rewrote the bylaws to align currently 501 (c) 4
      * This allows for donating/supporting a politician
      * Getting 501(c)3 means we would be tax exempt and operate as a charity
    - The tweaking of the current bylaws
    - Main changes – Currently - 6 executive board members and 7 members at large
      * Board of Directors – 12 member – 5 executive members
      * Positions after this main – is 2 year terms – have cleaner handoffs
      * What we have seen – December is great – January would suck! Half of the board is new and the other half would be burned out
      * Lots of agitation
      * Overall, the plan would be that the President/VP would be leave at the same time
    - Motion: Ben Sheets, Second Dave Repko
    - Vote: Motion accepted Unanimously
  + Description of the organization chart (shown below)
  + Notable mentions:
    - U8 Jr Referee Assigner – should be someone there
    - ICL is so critical from a developmental perspective and is influential in whether or not the player remains with Soccer or may move away from the game
    - Travel – community/scheduler (commissioners should have a lot of input into those schedules – due to heartache and headaches we have had
    - Home games schedule them logically
    - Are all commissioners needed – not every season potentially
      * JV/Varsity for the spring so it does not conflict with the season
    - As president, it is a problem with the naming convention – Middle School, JV, Varsity – moving it away from U14/U16, etc.
    - Secretary:
    - Registrar: Risk Management – not alone in validating risk
    - Treasurer: Fundraising and Concession Stand
    - Meeting Frequency –
      * The officers – Pres, VP, Secretary, Registrar, Treasurer meet monthly
        + Officers keep in touch with their directors – text chain, meeting at least once per month
        + Trickle down – Ad Hoc, text, at the field can we catch up
      * There will not be a meeting every month
      * Quarterly meetings will be held with all board and directors
      * AGM will have everyone involved
      * Coaches under the commissioners – talk to the commissioners
      * Who does what?
  + Nominations
* Nominating Committee Chair's Report – Kate Koch, Jess Jackson, Holly Levin
  + Executive Board –
    - Nick Druga - President
    - Kim Rios – VP
    - Holly Levin – Registrar
    - Kate Koch – Secretary
    - Joshua Dadeboe – Treasurer
  + Voting Directors –
    - In House – Tiff Johnson
    - TOPSoccer – Kirk Howard
    - ICL – Jim Marsula
    - Travel – Julie McDermott
    - Parent Engagement – Theo Nelson
    - Risk Management – Jordan Snead
    - Fundraising – Nate Cushion
    - Motion to accept the nominations of the 23-24 Motion: Steve 2nd: Ben
      * Discussion of terms
      * All in favor
      * Opposed
      * Abstention:
  + Non-Voting Positions
    - InHouse Commissioner Coordinator – Jess Johnson
    - U4 Commissioner – Alyssa Falarski
    - ICL Girls Coordinator – Steve Dedrick
    - Travel/ICL Game Scheduler – Courtney Bianchi
    - Parent Committee – Carly Kohler
  + Nominations from the floor –
    - Amy Proie – Parent Committee
* Closing thought – We have come a long way over a short period of years
  + We have a better relationship with the school
  + We have more teams going to tournaments/futsal/summer/winter
  + All we can do is create the opportunities
  + Really hopeful that we can do that, looking at the people in the room
  + Thank you for coming and participating
* Thank you – Ben Sheets
  + Thank you – went 0-60 and kept his feet under him
  + Thank you for the passion and
  + Anything that was needed – you were there
  + Thank you for your time and dedication
  + Everything is very much appreciated
* Motion for Adjournment – Ben/ Kim