

Minutes of the BAFHA AGM 2011-01-09:

In attendance:

John Sandhu; President (also representing Palo Alto FHC)

Andreas V. Kadavanich; Vice President

Kanwardeep Sidhu, Kamalpreet Sidhu, Ramandeep Sandhu; Santa Clara FHC

Stephen Bougon; Marin FHC

Joan Holgage; San Francisco FHC

(i) To receive a report from the President or the Executive Committee.

The critical issues facing BAFHA are the same as before. Limited field availability and a dwindling, aging pool of players. On the positive side, we have developed a strong pool of capable umpires that is still improving.

To address field availability issue it is critical that BAFHA look at venues besides astroturf, especially the many polygrass fields now available.

Additionally, a six-a-side format for matches should improve the ability of clubs to field competitive teams and also makes it easier to add a social league.

(ii) To receive and review the Accounts of the Association for the preceding financial year.

See separate report

(iii) To approve a budget for the forthcoming year.

The budget discussion was tabled until a later time when the format of the league (6-a-side vs. 11-a-side, number of teams) could be finalized

(iv) To receive a report from the General Secretary and Secretary for Hockey Development.

Not present. (The office of the General Secretary is currently vacant.)

(v) To receive a report from:

-The Selection and Competitions Committee

-The Coaching and Umpires Committee

Not present.

(vi) To determine the scale of affiliation fees,

This was tabled together with the budget discussion.

(vii) To allow for nominations from the floor by any individual or club member in good standing.

Nominations were received for the following offices:

General Secretary: Andreas V. Kadavanich

Treasurer: Niall J. Murphy

Secretary for Hockey Development: Arvind Singh

No nominations were received for President or Vice President

(viii) To elect the Officers of the Executive Committee.

In view of the lack of nominations for the President and Vice President offices, voting was postponed. Further nominations are solicited with a due date of January 23, 2011.

1. President

2. Vice-President

3. General Secretary/ USFHA Representative

4. Treasurer

5. Secretary for Hockey Development

(ix) To elect the Chairpersons of:

-The Selection and Competitions Committee

-The Discipline/Umpires Committee

(x) To transact any business as raised by the membership.

1. Should the BAFHA web page be converted to a CMS system that would allow the Executive (or other non-expert technical people) to edit the content directly. Conversion cost is estimated at \$800. See attached project proposal.

The general consensus was that even with a CMS system, the Executive would likely not invest the time to learn how to manage the web page. It was decided to retain the current design. However, Johnny will investigate creating a Facebook presence for BAFHA.

2. Request from Stanford Storm to join BAFHA. Sponsored by Palo Alto FHC and Marin FHC

The Stanford Storm was admitted with unanimous consent. Normal rules apply for probationary club status (see sections 4.(a)(vi) and 4.(c) of the BAFHA by-laws).

3. Suggest we add to the agenda the talk of a mixed/extra competition - see recent email from Joan.

What to do/ how to ensure that it builds, rather than fragments, players and interest in our sport.

“Additionally, the women’s league is planning on organizing some spring and summer competitions. This means we may lose quite a number of women who usually play in the men’s

competition. Giving the difficulty in getting players and teams for our competition, it might be worth considering combining the men's league with the women's league and making it officially a mixed competition so we can have a larger number of players and teams and hence a larger competition."

There is no real conflict here as this appears to be a social venue, mostly for scrimmages at this point. BAFHA may want to get involved in the future, but for liability it is better to stay detached. BAFHA, can however publicize these scrimmages on its web page as it does with other events/organizations.

Other business:

A large portion of the meeting was taken up by discussing proposed formats for the 2011 league. The main conclusion was that 11-a-side fixtures are increasingly difficult to sustain as evidenced by the 2010 league. Instead the proposal was made to go to a six-a-side format, with some 11-a-side tournaments interspersed (the reverse of the previous 11-a-side league with 6-a-side tournaments.)

It is assumed that a six-a-side format will improve the ability of clubs to achieve consistent turnout for competitive matches. Additionally this would free up field space for social matches. Moreover, it might make it feasible to create regions of clubs so less travel would be needed for matches (e.g. North Bay/South Bay/Sacramento regions or East Bay/West Bay regions.) There would be significant organizational challenges associated with this proposal, mostly dealing with scheduling umpires and preparing fields for half-field matches (line markings, goals). However, the 6-a-side approach is used successfully by the women's league, as well as the Southern California leagues, and the learnings from those organizations should be leveraged for this effort.

To increase the available field time and improve predictability in the schedule, it is also imperative to look at additional venues, such as the many polygrass facilities now available in the Bay Area.

To improve compliance with USAFH requirements and general liability, it was proposed that going forwards, umpires will check player eligibility before each match. This requires that every player have a physical copy of their USAFH

membership card and BAFHA waiver available for inspection at all times. Since the current BAFHA waiver form already includes a space for a USAFH card, this should be easy to do by players and monitored by team captains.