

Minutes – AGM

Present:

- Mavericks (5), City (5), Strathclyde (2), Glasgow (1), Dundee (1)
- Not present: St Andrews, Ed Uni

Competitions:

- Steve L provided report on league structure, fixtures. 283 individual players, up from 238.
- Clubs consulted on preferences for league competition: committee to recommend that Strathclyde be offered automatic promotion and no relegation to make each division consist of 8 teams.
- SKA Cup – 13 teams (up from 11) in qualifiers, finals in Dundee where shot clocks were used for the first time. Unable to play the junior game on finals day; level of enthusiasm indicates that we should look to plan this next year.

Refereeing

- Mike G provided an update on refereeing (see notes).
- Recommendation: to allow Strathclyde a year's grace period to get referees qualified to a necessary standard. Committee will need to decide on possible sanctions/consequences if St Andrews, Ed Uni unable to get referees qualified to an adequate standard in the coming season.

Budget:

- Profit made as a consequence of more players than expected.
- Recommendation: don't budget from AGM to AGM, but to fix the budget date as 30 April – 30 April.
 - Voting on budget?
 - Question: shot clock went under development budget.
 - Internationals discrepancy: likely that internationals costs have been counted twice, partly as a consequence of previous budgets and dates of budget report.
 - Coaching expenses: clarified that this refers to Johan and Bas.

Development

- last year's development plan approved at the last AGM. John went through each point. Points not fully addressed/for future consideration.
 - junior club development and best practice.
 - Coaching qualification course has been prepared and will be shared in the near future. Level 1 prepared, John W will look at level 2 draft over the summer.
 - Coaching qualifications – in future will depend on the development of courses above.
 - Referee training – to be held biannually, so another next year.
 - Internationals refereeing – for further development, getting a pool of people qualified for internationals. Need to identify willing individuals and seek assistance from the IKF in developing.
 - Jury members: some people have been put forward but no response from IKF.
 - Banner: not purchased yet, something to explore in future.
 - Development position: target for a part-time paid position to allow proper attention.
 - SportScotland registration: will require continued growth in membership.
 - Coaching conference: best to combine with a level 1 coaching course to bring people together.
 - Participation: cup format not expanded to to lack of free weekends in the fixture calendar. Next committee can review.
- Sam S – raised question about how coaching qualification relates to insurance. Clarified that previous insurance required a level 2 coach, but current insurance only refers to “accredited activities” and should cover this. Unclear how this refers to coaches – will require clarification.

Discussion Points:

- **LeagueRepublic act:** show of hands demonstrated that those who have used the app found it helpful. We had a free trial, and later discovered that due to the length of time we have used LR we have access to additional elements.

- May still require a match form for referees, to cover MVPs and any disciplinary issues. Disciplinary form exists separate to the match form and this does not have to change. All entries require admin approval.

Rule changes (numbers on the rule change document)

- **1.5** remove control, change to “promote and develop korfbal” (passed unanimous)
- **3.3** Sam S raised a question on whether setting a format in the rules holds future committees to a set structure. Clarified that the rules set some discretion (passed unanimously)
- **3.4** Dan P raised a comment about automatic places in division 1, raising concern about St Andrews’ place in Division 1 given their playing record and difficulties developing players, coaches and referees. Suggests a playoff for the team finishing second in Division 2 for promotion to Division 1.
 - Elliot: Saints have run preseason, have had people sit refereeing written tests and assessments and have. Unsure why they should be punished for a bad season. This has now become an issue because previously teams have chosen not to be promoted and this has now changed.
 - Jena: seems unfair given this wasn’t raised last to give them a chance to adapt/change.
 - Harriet: the current system seems to flexible
 - Steve L clarified that the current recommendation is to forgo the playoff and relegation and just promote. Clarified that playoffs could still take place.
 - Mike G had advised Saints that it would be helpful to attend the AGM given this was likely to be discussed. Saints have responded to say that they would like to continue playing in the top league. This was discussed at their AGM and the club voted to remain.
 - Hassan: they try hard, bring a lot of players through, try to be good participants in the league. It’s hard to replace good players when they leave. It would be best to give them a chance to respond and develop this year in line with committee recommendations.
 - Steve L: Dundee were also given the option and the response has been mixed. Paul G confirmed that some people would prefer to play Division 2 but he would prefer to play Division 1.
 - Steve L: the recommendation also incorporates the need for a top level referee. A plan for qualification should be put in place to encourage development.
 - Elliot: Why do we assume that 8/8 split is best. Steve L confirmed that logistics for Division 2 were extremely challenging. If the long-term plan is to play single fixtures, this will be more challenging. While 7/9 is mathematically better, it is still very challenging.
 - Dan: should we ask teams to block off a certain number of weekends in order to participate. Steve L discussed challenges from BSKA and other events.
 - Sam S: in principle, should the bottom team retain their place under any circumstances?
 - John W clarified the current playoff system.
 - Elliot: Why do we give preference to first teams for promotion, given the risks of bringing up an inferior team? Mike G clarified that this allows clubs to develop.
 - Discussion of what a playoff this year would look like. Mike G clarified that given the changes, a pre-defined playoff format is challenging. Mike G feels it is unfair to arrange a playoff this year given the short notice and lack of prior planning. Does not feel that this can be solved this year, but we can create a requirement that it does not happen again.
 - Dan returned to whether and why Saints 1 should be automatically granted a place?
 - Elliot: given the changes and their history of participation, should be allowed to remain.
 - Nikki: why can teams decline promotion?
 - Mike G clarified that the current system allows for the second team in Div 2 to take the playoff place in this situation.
 - Harriet: this goes back to Storm leaving and filling a gap.
 - Mike G: in answer to Dan’s question, the current committee hasn’t arranged a playoff and it’s now impossible to arrange.
 - Dan: what happens if the committee votes down the 8/8 structure – do Strathclyde stay in Div 2? What happens if another team chooses to enter the league? (Clarified that the current system calls for 8 teams in division 1 and the remainder in division 2).
 - **Vote:** to maintain a system of 8 and x (1 objection – Dan, who proposed that the committee have discretion over the best structure. Steve L clarified that this proposed change is a recommendation and still allows for discretion).

- Drew: giving committee discretion means that the league structure should be decided pre-AGM and voted for at the AGM.
- **Vote:** 8 and x vs committee determining the structure in consultation with clubs.
 - 8 and x: 0
 - committee discretion/consultation: unanimous. Covers 3.3 and 3.4
- Will we continue to have a playoff? Some consensus on having a playoff automatically.
 - **Vote:** mandatory playoff permitting movement in both directions to be played every year from season 2019/2020. (motion passed, 1 vote against).
- 17.1 since been pointed out that the averaged matches may come from a previous season and may not reflect current situation. It is also more complex:
 - Dan: is the change necessary? No other competition uses this system, and we can just vary the difference according to the league average.
 - Elliot: can we just remove forfeited matches for teams?
 - Hassan: could we average goal difference for games played, minus those forfeited. Concerns that depending on which team forfeits the effect could be massive?
- **Vote:** fixed number vs algorithm: fixed number passes unanimously.
 - Sam S: top league forfeiting should be punished. Mike G clarified that there was a punishment for Saints.
- Mike G proposed a vote on the amount of goal difference. Some concern that this requires additional thought and committee to decide.
- **Vote:** 11 goal forfeit passes unanimously.
- **Vote:** if teams *in meaningful positions* (either for league winning or relegation zone) and all other current tiebreakers are exhausted, there should be a playoff. (passes unanimously)
- 26.4, 26.5. 26.6 26.7 – all covered in above amendments.

Shot clocks: development plan is for introduction in 2020-2021. Options to introduce this year into top division. Requires rapid training of shot-clock operators. Possibility of phased training. Referees will also be required for training. Alternative is using at all non-league competitions and giving clubs the opportunities to practice with the SKA clocks.

- Dan: could we give teams the option to use if both agree?
- Steve L: some teams may express concern that teams are playing to different standards.
- Dan: for mandatory shot clocks, will the SKA purchase or will clubs purchase? Mike G clarified that current budget is for SKA to buy another, but this is worth revisiting in the next year.
- Sam: if clubs will be using their own, the SKA needs to set a minimum standard. Need guidance in place before clubs purchase.
- **Vote:** mandatory shot-clocks 2020-2021, optional 2019/2020 if both teams agree and there is a willing referee and shot clock operator: (passed unanimously)

Discussion Points:

Mike raised the discussion points from St Andrews with his responses. No further discussion necessary.

Committee stood down.

Committee Election process:

Nominees: Ross McGuinness (seconded by Nikki, no objections), Steve A?, Calum L (seconded Steve L, no objections).

- In the absence of a full committee, clubs will be contacted to set a date for nominees for committee. If there are not at least 6 people, there will be an EGM.