

ATLANTIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
November 28, 2009 – 10:00 AM  
Amsterdam Inn, Sussex

Members present: Barry Ogden, Larry Timms, Pat O'Brien, Larry Wisniewski, and Bill Todd

Members Absent: Terry McIntyre, Roger Collette, Dan Fougere

Guests: Allison Gates (NBFOA), Eric Sabeau (MFL)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The agenda/list of discussion times was tabled.

**Minutes** - The minutes of the last conference call meeting were tabled (Sept. 22/09). These had been circulated earlier. The only discussion point was the issue of a central depository for registration forms. Concerns raised were associated with many various request for these forms/information. It was concluded that a data base (with restricted access) would resolve this with hard copies being left in the hands of the local teams. The main concern was that the AFL and FNB required at a minimum, a list of player s and their year of birth and a list of all coaches, executive and support staff (this is critical for insurance purposes). Firm rules around this will be tabled at the AGM.

**Finances** – Larry tabled a financial statement (update attached). The final bussing invoice had not been received as of the time of the meeting but the projection indicated approximately a \$1,500 surplus. Bill moved to adopt the statement, seconded by Larry W. Accepted.

**Distribution of Surplus** – The bylaws indicate that any surplus be divided 4 ways (AFL and teams), however, with the plans to expand and associated travel expenses, Larry T. recommended that the surplus be left in the hands of the AFL for the time being. Barry moved that we do this, seconded by Larry W. Adopted.

**Bank Account** – Larry T raised the point that currently FNB are providing our banking services and this seems to be working well. For the near term, it is proposed that this continue, subject to Terry's willingness to do it. If the AFL expands outside of the province, this situation may have to change.

**Constitution/Bylaws** – Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws were discussion, mainly associated with word clarification and addressing issues that arose over the first season of operation. Pat O'Brien and Bill Todd agreed to make the appropriate changes to these documents and distribute these in the near future for feedback and comments. A final draft should then be ready for adoption at the AGM.

**2010 Budget**– Now having at least 1 year of actual results, budgeting should be easier this time around. With potentially more teams and greater travel cost, the numbers will more likely change. It was proposed to develop 4 budgets based on 3, 4, 5 and 6 team scenarios. Larry will work on this and have these for presentation at the AGM. Although the bussing arrangement worked well this year, there may be another company in the mix for 2010, creating a bidding situation and potentially low cost.

**AFL Website** – Although each team has their own site, it is hoped that an AFL site can be developed. This was discussed earlier in the year but with getting the league going, it was tabled. The concern is that we do not have the funds to spend a lot on this process. Bill Todd indicated that we do have a domain name reserved and he volunteered to look into this matter.

**Playoff Games – Conflicts with HS/Minor Playoffs** – Allison Gates noted that the HS playoffs have to be completed by the second weekend of November. In scheduling the 2010 games (hope is to start the season earlier and end earlier), the AFL will have to ensure there are no conflicts with either the minor or HS schedules.

**Expansion** – Both PEI (UPEI/Holland College) and with Halifax (Dalhousie Alumni) have expressed interest in participating next year. It is critical that the plans be finalized by the time of the AFL AGM. Meetings will be scheduled early in the year with interested parties. A schedule is required by the NBFOA, no later than early June so they can determine if they can meet the requirements – see the NBFOA section below.

**MFL/AFL Relationship** – Eric Sabeau raised concerns that the AFL could be having an impact on the Maritime Football League mainly associated with when the one league ends play and the other starts. With fewer potential teams in the MFL, their season could potentially end earlier and if the AFL holds starting practices until September 1, that may resolve this issue. The AFL and MFL must keep the communications open to address issues as they arise.

**NBFOA** – Allison Gates presented the NBFOA's comments on the year, noting concerns about sideline security, playoff game timers and sideline crews, changing facilities and the scheduling of games. He also noted an option that the NBFOA offer charging a fixed fee per game rather than a lower game fee plus travel costs. This will have to be an item to be discussed at the AGM. The NBFOA require more members to cope with the ever expanding leagues, teams and subsequent number of games. To help in this area would be the scheduling of games during the week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays) or on Sunday's. As the League expands this will be required, if the AFL wants "qualified" officials for their games. Friday evenings and Saturday games provide the biggest challenge for the NBFOA. The AFL will have to work closely with the NBFOA to ensure that there is satisfactory official coverage for the AFL games.

**AGM** – the AGM is scheduled for Saturday, March 20 (per the current bylaws required by the end of March). Location and start time will be set closer to the date and communicated to all.

**League Championship Trophy** – The Irving Cup has been donated to recognize the league regular season champion. This will complement the Moosehead Cup for the playoff winner.

**Other Business:**

**Insurance** - Larry W raised the issue about playing out of the country and the insurance coverage. It is the general understanding that the FNB plan covers playing anywhere in Canada but further research is required if a team was to visit the US.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm

**Action Items**

**Champion**

Website	Bill Todd
2010 Budget	Larry Timms
Constitution/Bylaws Update	Pat O'Brien. & Bill Todd
AGM Location – Time	Pat O'Brien / Larry Timms
Banking Arrangement	Larry & Terry
Expansion Meetings	Pat O'Brien
Player Data Base	Larry Timms
AGM – Saturday, March 20, 2010	All
2010 Scheduling	Pat /NBFOA/Teams