

Green Mountain Division Annual Minutes

June 1, 2014

Present

Viveka Fox, Keith (Digger) Puffer, Ray Schuppe, Paul Horak, Ben Brisson, Jack Brisson, Alex Kite, Kevin Kite, Dan Crockett, Lou Martinez, Jack Nop, Michelle Wheeler, Justin Brideau, Norm Brideau

The meeting was called to order at 2:19 pm by Dan Crockett. Dan thanked Ray for three years of service. Dan moved to accept the slate of nominees. Viveka seconded. No one opposed. No discussion. The new slate of officers was unanimously approved.

Election Nominations

Motion: accept the slate of division officers for voting on during GMD party.

-President: Dan Crockett

-Vice President: Paul Horak

-Treasurer: Lou Martinez

-Secretary: Kevin Kite

Treasurer's Report

Ray presented the 2013-14 season financial picture. Profits were down a little from last year, even though venue cost was down and entries were comparable. The reason was the JO qualifier, which produced a record loss of \$240. That's almost twice as much as GMD has ever lost. Ray suggested we find a way to avoid this kind of loss in the future.

Viveka suggested that one way to avoid this kind of loss would be to make sure that the Development Day was not for teens, which would avoid any possible siphoning effect of teens choosing to do Development Day rather than Jos. Dan observed that we have never lost on summer nationals qualifier and we lost \$6 this time. Issue was table for discussion later during scheduling.

Ray noted that USFA seems to have cleared its backlog of membership dues (we received \$423 back in membership dues). The details are in the report. Overall, the GMD bank balance is healthy.

Vice President's Report:

The Vice President had nothing in particular to report. Dan complimented Paul Horak on the trophies this year. Dan asked if there were any comments or concerns? No.

Dan called the vote to approve last year's minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

There was a discussion about holding non-sanctioned event on same day as a sanctioned tournament. Ray commented that USFA seems primarily interested in making sure that every competitor has at least a \$5 non-competitive membership paid.

2013/14 Competition Calendar

Discussion: This past season's schedule (2013/14). 12 weekend competitions and 1 clinic. Viveka suggested holding unrated things earlier in the season to improve E-under participation because we have a lot of kids moving up from youth. The unrated events are

good for them; they help produce a chance of ratings, which encourages people earlier. Jack suggested a saber unrated event because we have ten sabrists, many of whom are unrated. A question was asked about sabrists in Bennington. They are believed to have a club, but no one was sure what plans they have. Jack offered to contact Jess down in Bennington and talk to her.

A detailed discussion of next year's schedule occurred, resulting in the following proposed schedule:

Proposed Schedule:

- Fall Foliage Classic, Open & Unrated Foil, Epee & Saber, UVM Sept 27.
- October Open & E Foil & Epee, Westport Oct 25
- JO Qualifiers, UVM Nov 15
- Development Day "epee with Adam Watson?", UVM Nov 16
- Upper Valley Holiday Open & Youth Foil and Epee, EFS, Sharon Dec 14
- Mid Vermont Melee, Open & U Foil & Epee, Duxbury Jan 17
- Groundhog Open, Open Epee, Foil & Saber, Youth Foil & Epee, Westport Feb 7
- 21st Annual Middlebury Open Foil, Epee & Saver, Youth Foil & Epee, Middlebury Mar 7-8
- Annual Foil Epee Doubles & E Foil & Epee Tournament, Sharon Mar 21
- GMD Foil & Saber Sum Nat & Spring D Meet, UVM Apr 25
- GMD Epee Sum Nat & Spring D Meet, UVM Apr 26
- Full Circle Foil, Open, E & Youth Foil Westport May 9
- Fort Ti, Epee Open & Youth, Ticonderoga May 23

Digger made a motion to accept the proposed schedule. Viveka second.

After the Proposed Schedule was accepted, further items were raised for discussion.

Adult only event. Viveka suggested that the adult-only Development Day was a successful event, and that we should find a permanent home for an adult-only event—not necessarily Development Day, just something that is regularly scheduled. After discussion, the topic was tabled for further exploration.

Development Day for this year. Several suggestions were made for this year's Development Day, including (1) an Armory Clinic followed by fencing events; (2) a team/peer coaching event coupled with a team event; (3) saber instruction, to prompt further participation in saber events; and (4) an epee-focused Development Day with a nationally-known epeeist. It was agreed to research the epee possibility first.

Ref clinic. Dan agreed to do another ref clinic, but he reminded everyone that participants from last year's ref clinic are qualified to take the exam for up to one year after the clinic; so they are still eligible to take the ref exam now. It was suggested that an event might be held to encourage people to take the exam right away, such as attending a ref clinic in morning, and taking the exam in afternoon.

Gender specific events. Michelle Wheeler said there is a growing interest in women's only events. Viveka suggested a new protocol—that all U events would be listed as separate gender events that will be combined into a mixed event if the numbers are too low. This would result

in more Es going out and may bring numbers up.

After this discussion, Viveka moved that for this season it be GMD policy to advertise all unrated events as separate gender events, with the understanding that the men's and women's events will be combined if either or both gendered events fail to have sufficient numbers. Michelle wheeler seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

First-Timer Incentive. First-timers joining USFA get to fence for free in their first tournament. Viveka will provide language for this by email. Moved, seconded, Unanimously approved.

Grounded Strip. Dan suggested purchasing a grounded strip. UVM would receive a partial subsidy from division in exchange for UVM ownership and UVM agreement to transport the strip to each event. Subsidy would be? Past experience has been that we gave equipment to clubs. Ray asked Dan to come up with a percentage. Viveka suggested that we include the cost of gaffer tape for each set up. Tabled for further exploration and discussion.

Contact info on AskFred. Michelle asked about listing phone numbers in contact info on AskFred. Viveka observed that in the past, GMD has left the contact info up to the individual managing the meet because people have varying opinions about posting home numbers.

Meet Ratings Postings. Michelle mentioned that the some participants at the FT. Ti event thought it was a rated event and were upset to learn it wasn't. The posting indicated that the event was not rated, but it was agreed that future postings could be clearer.

Dan moved to adjourn. Viveka second. Unanimously approved at 4:32 p.m.