

Green Mountain Division
Annual Business Meeting
Minutes - June 6, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

Present: Ray Schuppe, Jason Evans, Julie Lamoreaux, Viveka Fox, Ruth Parker, Leslie and Chris Damon, Sonam Friedensohn, Amanda Granizo (via remote) Keegan Harris, Paul Rossi, Dale Rodgers, Robin, Paul Horak, Jared Whalen, Deb and Chris Hogan

Election Results:

Motion was made to accept the results of the on-line poll as our official election result for division officers. Viveka Fox-President, Paul Rossi-Vice President, Julie Lamoreaux-Treasurer, Yong Yu/Ruth Parker co-secretaries. Motion was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report:

There was a discussion on the balance sheet, trends, and recommendations. Venues are more expensive and the costs are higher, but this was offset by the number of entries being at a record high. The Spring D tournament and Senior National Qualifiers lost money last year. Fort Ticonderoga broke even. The Jr. Olympic Qualifier made a little money. The Middlebury Open provides half of the income. We are down to only one free venue next year- UVM. There was discussion on keeping event fees the same for this upcoming year, but perhaps having to increase them for the year after. There was research on other neighboring fees and they were relatively comparable. Also, we would be on the lookout for the USFA membership rebate coming soon. Julie discussed moving the banking to a bank more convenient to her. Everyone thanked Ray for his commitment and work as treasurer.

Discussion on Scholarships/Financial Aid from the GMD:

There was discussion on making a clearer criteria for eligibility for financial aid. It was decided that these guidelines would go under the business pages on the website. Criteria to include things like confidentially explaining their financial situation, demonstrate their readiness to compete at the level aid is being requested, and the fencer (and/or family members) must demonstrate a continuing contribution to the division through volunteerism.

Vice President's Report-Champlain Cup point system:

The brief discussion was that there was no need to change the system in place. However, it was clarified that if a Champlain Cup finalist had accumulated less than 15 points (as is possible in sabre), that this finalist would need to have entered at least 50% of the events actually held. It was also clarified that to receive a Champlain Cup trophy, the participant would need to compete in at least three Champlain Cup tournaments.

Development Day:

There was a motion by Leslie Damon, seconded by Julie Lamoreaux that this years Development Day be dedicated to Saber. It was unanimously passed. There was discussion about Friday nights at Essex Elementary when Dale holds open saber practice. It was also suggested that perhaps we could look into the feasibility of holding saber tournaments on some Friday nights.

Past Competition Calendar:

There was discussion on under-attended events. These included:

All women's events (except U WE at Middlebury Open

All sabre events

All age group qualifier events (Jr. Ct, Y14 at JOQs and SNQs) except Jr. MF, Ct MF, and Jr. ME at JOQ's.

Division 2 MF and team events at SNQ

U Epee at Fall Foliage.

There was discussion on well-attended events: These included:

Open foil and Open epee

D and E foil and epee

Y12 foil and Y14 epee.

Then the discussion turned to how to increase participation in qualifiers and everyone seemed to be in general agreement that semantics was imperative, hence the JO qualifier can now be the Fall Teen Frolic and Sectionals can be the SNQ Division Championships.

There was a motion by Paul Rossi for the focus to youth events to be Y12 Foil and Epee events. This was seconded by Paul Horak and unanimously approved.

There was a discussion on petitioning the USFA to overturn its ruling on GMD not being able to hold events in Hanover. Amanda Granizo put forth a motion requesting USFA to overturn its ruling. Jared Whalen seconded it. Discussion included the fact that the school district overlapped between the two states at that location, as well as the importance to maintain a good relationship and non-competitive relationship with the New England Division. The vote was to accept the USFA ruling.

Competition Calendar 2010-2011:

There was significant discussion on the proposed GMD 2010-2011 season and it was agreed that the host clubs agree to book venues as soon as possible and keep Viveka updated.

The rough template includes:

Sept 25 or 26: Fall Foliage Open with Open foil, epee, and sabre at UVM (QC/SC)

Oct 9, 10, 16, or 17: Open and Youth (WSC)

Nov 6 or 7: Development Day. Sabre (Champlain Valley w/ WSC backup)

Nov 13, 14, 20, or 21: JO Qualifiers – (VFA) Middlebury

Dec 4 or 5: Open and Youth (Upper Valley)

Jan 8, 9, 15, or 16: Open and E (Upper Valley)

Jan 29, 30, Feb 5, or 6: Groundhog Open and Youth (WSC)

Feb 26 or 27 Foil-Epee doubles-charity tournament? non-USFA event. Amanda will approach Tracie from NE Division to co-produce Charity event.

March 5-6 or 12-13, Middlebury Open (open, U, youth, veteran) (VFA)

March 26 or 27: D Meet (UVM)

April or early May? (depends on Sectionals) SNQ

April or early May? (again depending on Sectionals): Full Circle Foil (Open, E, and Youth) (Champlain Valley)

May 28: Fort Ticonderoga

No other open discussion items came up. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.