

**Southern Ontario District Board Meeting – Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 8:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA:**

1. Roll Call – Peter Daleman, Ron Howden, Gord Kerr, Richard Lemoine, Patricia MacDonell, Ken Norris (joined at agenda item 6), Connie Ohrling, Colin Rhodes, Marilyn Suke  
Recording Secretary: Debra Friendly

2. Approval of Agenda: No additions suggested.

3. Review of Minutes and Report on Action Items (individuals to speak to their items)

Motion to approve minutes as presented was moved by Colin Rhodes and seconded by Gord Kerr.

Discussion of action items from these minutes:

Patricia did notify Toivo regarding no funding for North Bay Fall Camp.

Richard found out that there are 2 interfaces between clubs and CCC. Contacts are picked up from Zone 4 but # of members is gathered separately by CCC. He now understands how the information can be updated.

Club survey – Gord has written a few questions regarding marketing and submitted them for the survey.

Budget – later in agenda

Sit skis – deferred to next meeting (Ken not yet on call)

Katja says the orienteering kit is probably at Highlands. Action: Connie will ask Kelly Sinclair.

Richard confirmed with CCO that roller ski races are covered by insurance if it is held on a closed course and there is a TD assigned.

List of board members is updated on SOD website. Generic e-mail addresses have been added as well and we are already getting queries. These accounts are being monitored by Patricia.

Marilyn asked that GBN be added to the list of SOD clubs on the website.

Connie asked that ICC/CCC course at Highlands Dec 12-14 at Highlands be added to the website. Action: Gord will update the website.

4. Administrative Matters for SOD: Club Database/Fee Collection/Club Communications

Action: Richard will be sending out a reminder letter this weekend to clubs who have not submitted their first payment. Action: He will also compare the list of clubs on SOD website to clubs listed in Zone 4 and send any updates to Gord for addition to the site. Patricia asked if the letter could have more information about SOD in it but since this letter will only go to clubs who have not made payment we wouldn't get all clubs. Patricia would like something to go out to all clubs ("Here's what SOD is doing for you.") and asked for a volunteer to draft this. Action: Marilyn Suke will draft something by early next week (Tuesday).

5. Treasurer's Report: Richard reviewed the draft budget. There were no questions. He has ideas for spending the surplus (e.g. extra wax support at Nationals for SOD skiers, subsidise Level 3 official's course for members from SOD clubs). Value of continuing the SOD bursaries is

being challenged by board members. Instead, it was suggested to reward university skiers who place well at NorAm races. (see later for further discussion)

Many board members support some level of subsidy for coach education/development. (Cost is about \$350 per coach registration plus 2 evaluations; coaches already get 70% (up to \$400) support from Coaches Association of Ontario for LTC and T2T as long as you meet their filing timeline criteria - 60 days after course completion – plus documentation). SOD could make up the difference. Ken suggested we should be supporting lower level coaching (ICC/CCC) since we have many clubs which are more recreational in focus, i.e. Jackrabbit programmes which need ICC/CCC coaches. Colin said if we support all levels at 30% then we would be supporting more lower level coaching because they comprise the majority of coaches. We should be using the CCO rebate (from Jackrabbit registration) for developing coaches for Jackrabbit programme. SOD portion of Race fees can go to High Performance. Patricia says we need to reach out to the clubs first. Is the Board generally in favour of doing a top up (30%) to all levels of coaching courses? Connie thinks we should be concentrating on LTT and L2T because we have a big drop off of coaches at ICC/CCC level – they don't go any further. Ron suggested that we allocate funds to each level of coaching. Richard said that would be very difficult to monitor. Marilyn will ask for numbers from Katja so that we know what we are looking at in each category of coaches trained in SOD every year. Current course registrations are indicating maybe 30 and not all from SOD. Motion: SOD will subsidise 30% of coaching training fees (including evaluations) incurred by members of an SOD club. Moved by Richard Seconded by Marilyn Carried unanimously. (This needs to be communicated. Agenda item for January?)

Suggestion to gather a "race kit" of equipment that can be shared amongst clubs. Ron provided the following prices from Zone 4: Standard race timing kit \$650; advanced including Summit timers \$6000; chip set \$7 per chip plus \$7000 per system. To keep it simple for Paraffin Series – whose intent was to provide fun, low key racing – we don't want to "blow our brains out" with equipment. Hesitation about owning equipment that needs maintenance and storage. Several members pointed out that most clubs with racing programmes have equipment so SOD doesn't really need to acquire equipment. Equipment can be rented between clubs.

Ken offered grooming training. When done in the past it has been well-received (2008 WJT at Highlands). Action: Include in the letter that Marilyn is drafting as a possibility – send out feelers. There are already blogs on the subject (U.S. and B.C. based which may not apply to Southern Ontario conditions). We could link to them on the SOD website.

There is general agreement to continue supporting summer camps but with specific criteria to be met.

Bursaries - Richard discussed the history of the bursaries was that they were a "parting gift" for a job well done prior to graduating from high school then changed to the athlete having to commit to continue skiing while attending a post-secondary institution but this is hard to monitor. Richard is in favour of changing this to rewarding SOD university/college skiers. Ron suggested we could also be encouraging those who do not pursue post-secondary education or are in other post-secondary programs. This is also being looked at by CCC. Should we be encouraging skiers to stay in school? We can set our own standard or follow CCUNC which is changing from "full time" requirement to X number of courses in a 12 month period. Marilyn suggested there would have to be a minimum CPL level – not just being the best OUA racer

from SOD. Connie mentioned that this takes out the 'application process' but Richard said that athletes would still have to let us know that they wish to be considered so that we didn't have to go through too much analysis to find the appropriate candidates. Action: A sub-committee of Richard, Ron and Marilyn would draft something to replace the bursary programme. This could be available in the next few weeks.

Ron would like to host a coaching symposium in May 2015 open to all coaches in Southern Ontario. Patricia asked Ron to draw up a short proposal to be considered at the next meeting.

6. SOD Planning: Discussion about possible expenditures/changes to current expenditures  
See item #5

7. Update on SOD Race Series – E-mail has been sent to coaches promoting the series. Logo will be on the Yuletide Blast registration. Midland might not be able to do relay but they are on board for the other race. Huntsville is good to go at Arrowhead. Downtown Barrie is very much weather dependent. Wasaga asked to be part of the series but nothing is settled and they aren't on the poster. Posters and handouts will be sent out (Patricia and Ron). Next year's poster should have lower level skiers in the photos. The poster is awesome! Patricia said that we did get permission to use the image. We need input on para-nordic categories. Not every race will have para-nordic categories. (e.g. Yuletide Blast has no PN categories.) Ken and Ron will work on this by location. SOD championship is the weekend after OFSSA. Are we concerned? It was the only date that worked.

8. Report on CCO Board activities – Draft minutes are available but cannot be widely shared until approved. Quest for Gold criteria was posted and nominations made including SOD athletes. Talent squad had successful training at Montmorency. Katja is getting electronic records ready for coaching development. On snow workshops planned. Still no Ontario coach so CCO will have a small surplus because of salary saved. NCD has arranged for an artificial loop (700 m) at a downhill resort that is available to their club members now for early season skiing. Parry Sound has been on snow for 10 days! Ron would like SOD coaches to have a chance to provide input to CCO High Performance meetings. Marilyn agreed she could share the agenda with coaches. Draft criteria for Team Ontario selection has already been shared (version 6) – Patricia saw it and commented on it. The criteria are almost ready to be brought to the CCO board by the sub-committee.

9. Sharing of Information from Board Members/Committee Reports - none

10. Other business – Ken suggested it is time to update the by-laws and asked if tax returns have been filed? Richard said Peter Lothian said he has been filing the "not for profit" return but Action: he will try to get the records to confirm. Action: Website domain name needs to be renewed and will be done by Ron for another 2 years. It was suggested that board members should report local snow conditions to Gord for inclusion on the website. Ron added to Paraffin Series item: Chandra Crawford may be able to show up at Paraffin Cup Championships in February and will have a Fast and Female component including prizes.

11. Next Meeting – Patricia will set up something for January – after January 12th and not January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to Adjourn: Gord Kerr Carried unanimously.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia MacDonell, President

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Friendly, Recording Secretary