

## SOD Board Meeting 2014-October-01 (Wednesday)– by teleconference

Meeting called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Patricia MacDonell.

**Attendance:** Ron Howden, Gord Kerr, Richard Lemoine, Patricia MacDonell, Ken Norris, Connie Ohrling, Colin Rhodes, Marilyn Suke **Absent:** Peter Daleman

**Review of Minutes of previous meeting:** Correction required in the section about CCC first sentence – duplicate word. Moved by Colin to accept minutes with this correction. Seconded by Ken. Carried.

**Confirmation of Vote on Funding of Summer Camps:** A motion was circulated by e-mail in September to formalize the agreement after the April meeting to partially fund the summer SOD Camps. The motion was made by Ron Howden and seconded by Richard Lemoine and is as follows:

That SOD provide funding in the amount of \$500 per camp for three summer 2014 camps for SOD athletes and that the payment be made to the organizing club for each of the camps planned for Highlands, North Bay and Tobermory.

The results of the vote by e-mail are to unanimously approve the funding. In future, we will ask club's requesting this kind of funding for details on what the funding is for. It had been agreed that this funding was to support coach travel.

**Request from North Bay for partial funding for a Fall Camp:** Since the North Bay summer camp was cancelled, Toivo has asked if the funds previously agreed to can be applied to a Fall camp (for coaching). It is already an established camp (5 years) so doesn't meet the perceived reason for the original funding which was to encourage summer camps. It is odd that we would fund something outside of our district although North Bay is accessible to SOD athletes. The funding was originally to help fund coaches. GBN and Hardwood will not send athletes. Colin doesn't expect many university students other than Nipissing to attend.

Moved by Colin, Seconded by Marilyn that we not assist with funding this camp. Carried.

Connie made the point that the venue must be able to accommodate enough athletes. Highland athletes could not get into the Tobermory camp due to limited space.

Action: Patricia will notify Toivo of the decision.

**Club Survey:** Ken has not received much from board members regarding questions for the survey. Most questions are relating to existing programs. Ken is planning to survey his own club's executive unofficially many of whom don't know what SOD is and see what their needs are. How do largely recreational clubs find value in SOD? We are missing a huge segment of the ski population. Recreational skiers do not see the payback on their CCO/SOD fees. CCC database is not up to date. It is separate from the information we put into the CCO (Zone 4) database. CCC is in the process of building a new database. We need the CCO information made available to the SOD board. Action: Richard said he would ask Liz Inkila to help in this regard. Ken said he would need something to send to the larger recreational clubs to request their feedback. Colin submitted questions regarding club programs, challenges, value seen from CCC/CCO/SOD, co-ordination. Connie submitted questions regarding numbers involved in youth programs and barriers to youth participation. Where are the numbers declining? Who is the youth co-ordinator at each club? Marilyn mentioned that Al White has done much to train people at the club level and assist at club races. If people know that there is that assistance available it might help clubs to run races.

Ron reminded the board that there was a suggestion to issue an SOD card which would provide reciprocal privileges or reduced trail passes for club members of SOD-CCO, such as a % discount on trail passes for all card-carrying members of SOD clubs. Some clubs already have some sort of reciprocal arrangement This could be included as a question on the survey.

Action: Gord will craft a question to include on the survey to determine if there is interest among SOD clubs to further pursue this idea,

**SOD Planning/Budget** – Survey results will provide some direction. We do not have many line items for the budget at this time – bursaries, proposed race series. Action: Richard will draft a budget in the next few days. Our only assets are: start clock, camera, sit skis, cash. Marilyn thinks we have an orienteering kit. Clock and camera are jointly owned by SOD and Highlands Trailblazers. Highlands Trailblazers maintains the equipment. Clubs who use the equipment are charged a nominal fee to cover maintenance. The sit skis are old technology. Action: Ken will determine inventory and location of the sit skis.

Action: Patricia will ask Katja if she has the orienteering kit or knows where it is. Action: All board members should consider what assets we might want to acquire or specific activities to undertake. Please submit prior to the next meeting. Action: All board members to consider what expenses we might want to stop incurring.

**SOD Race Series Proposal:** Refer to submission included with agenda. In addition to races listed, we can now add February 1 at GBN. Ron has approached all clubs listed on the race schedule. Clubs want to control their own race entries. Ron asked clubs to make the races affordable and this doesn't appear to be a problem. Ron has spoken to some sponsors and will go forward to find more once we have board approval. Points system for calculation of overall results is from Canada Winter Games and is reasonably simple (versus time differential). Not sure if the cost estimate for medals is accurate. BBQ estimate – used SOD banquet cost. Marketing intended for schools, universities and clubs. Ron suggests that SOD fund the series in Year 1 and consider asking clubs to fund in year 2. Athletes will count best 6 races (out of 10) for the overall awards. Athletes would be allowed to race up. Ron thinks the cash prizes would be a motivator. Marilyn thinks SOD used to provide yearend cash prizes. It is critical that only paraffin waxes are used but it will need to be on an honour system as there is really no way to monitor. This information must be on all race notices.

Ron moved to allocate \$2000 to the Paraffin Series so that he can proceed. Seconded by Connie. Carried.

Ron noted that he has 4 sponsors already. GBN's race is already sponsored so Ron would be looking for 5 more sponsors with the intention of having each of the 10 races sponsored.

**Canada Winter Games Selection Criteria:** Hardwood has submitted a summary of objections to the criteria to the CCO High Performance Committee. Refer to memo included with agenda. Connie asked if SOD should be offering its support to Hardwood's position. There wasn't time to garner other support. Colin indicated that HPC met on Monday and there wasn't time to approach SOD. CCO will be making a statement soon following the HPC meeting on Monday. Ron suggests that the lesson learned is that CCO has to be planning further ahead. SOD should be lobbying now for next year's camps by CCO so that our camps can be scheduled.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Treasurer's Report (Richard) – We have about \$115,000. He has discovered that there is a problem with the name on the current bank account so he will be working on rectifying this.

High Performance (Marilyn) – HPC met on Monday. Discussed LF policy for midgets – will be extended to all Ontario races. Alberta and Quebec are considering but have backed away. Ontario talent squad at Fort Montmorency going ahead – funding by CCO including the midgets. CCC has created an education committee to monitor alternate pathways to getting to national team. Unknown as yet who is on the committee but it is to be formed this year. NDC and Ontario Ski Team partnership may lead to reformatting how we handle the Ontario Ski Team. Part of CCO strategic planning. Marilyn asked for the board to submit ideas about provincial coach position.

Youth (Connie) – Community Coaching course coming in December at Highlands. She will confirm the dates. Ron asked if we should incorporate a 'youth race/JackRabbit day' in next year's Paraffin series. Will be discussed at a later time.

Para-Nordic (Ken) – Training in October (17-19) and Canmore in November. Soldier on and "try it on" sessions are in the planning stages.

University (Colin) – Program underway. Fall camp scheduled. Race notice for November 1st run/roller ski duathlon through University of Waterloo is done. Action: Richard will check with CCO to see if roller ski race is covered by our insurance. Should specify whether the race is on a closed course or open course (i.e. sharing the road).

#### **Other Business –**

Bursaries - Two of the 4 students have supplied proof of university registration. The other 2 are in process. Richard will issue cheques once the banking has been settled and all students' paperwork is in place.

Coaching development and recruitment – How does a club find another coach? What is being done to develop coaches? Ken indicated that it is too onerous to get into coaching. e.g. ICC/CC should be on-line and not a weekend course. CCC has been slow to react to the complaints. Marilyn says she does the intro course over 4 evenings instead of a full weekend. Funding doesn't appear to be the problem – clubs cover costs. It is hard to get people to go to the next level. Ron indicated that evaluations can be expensive and suggests that CCO should cover this cost. (L2T & T2T) Colin suggested that SOD could consider some funding. There was an attempt to run a coaching course in conjunction with a university race but there wasn't enough interest.

Website - Gord is looking for content including photos for the SOD website. Action: Gord will update the list of board members on the site. By laws have been added.

The 'D' in SOD = District since Division applies at the provincial level.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 8 p.m. Will try for a face to face meeting in January.

Motion to adjourn: Marilyn Suke. Seconded by Ron Howden. Carried.

Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Attachments: Team Hardwood submission regarding Canada Winter Games criteria, SOD Paraffin Series proposal

Submitted by: Debra Friendly, Recording Secretary

Approved by: Patricia MacDonell, President