

Board Meeting for January 2014

Present at meeting: Board: Joe Neelands (President), Scott Venables (Vice President), Kieran Hart (Secretary), Mark Roberts (Treasurer), Daniel Sharp (Marketing Manager), Terry McNamara (Coach), Jeremy Cole (Assistant Coach). Also present was Mike McCusker (Player). Not present was Nick McKee (Light Equipment/Tournament Director/Recruitment Manager)

Topics

Non-profit Status

The team is going to once again begin pursuing the 501c-3 non-profit status. Kieran is going to begin reviewing the documentation from previous attempts and provide an update to the team at the next meeting. The acquiring of the 501c-3 status is a top priority for the team this year.

Oregon Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Scott Venables has begun research into getting the team registered with the State as a LLC. The hope is to provide a level of protection to the team membership in the case of a lawsuit. The cost to register is estimated to be around \$100 and Scott feels that the process should be fairly painless.

NACB Affiliation

During the League meeting in Portland at the start of January, the Seattle Gaels put forth a request that the teams in the NW Division all join the North American Count Board (NACB), who oversee the development of Gaelic games in the USA (outside of New York). The benefit of being part of the NACB comes in the form of “freebies” like gear, training courses, and the ability to play at Nationals. There is also the ability to purchase liability insurance through the NACB to protect affiliated teams.

NACB Affiliation: \$100/year for first three years

NACB Insurance: \$250/year

It was decided to take these under consideration for future vote, with the idea of researching the possibility the LLC might provide an equal amount of protection.

2014 Season

Season Start Date: February 2nd, 2014

Terry McNamara and Jeremy Cole will be running practices this year, with Terry in the coaching roll and Jeremy serving as his assistant. Joe Neelands asked that the coaches design a few practices that can be help in smaller, high-visibility parks such as MLK park, Avery Park, or the OSU Student Legacy Park. The goal of playing these smaller venues is to put the team in locations where we will be able to interact with an increased number of passersby. Terry will be in charge of providing email updates regarding practices and game times.

It was also announced that the league has decided on a longer season (March-September) with more tournaments and fewer individual matches. The change is an attempt to remedy the lack of practice weekend for new players.

Marketing

During the previous board meeting, Joe Neelands had laid out a plan to get the team more visibility in the local community. The hope is that getting the team involved in non-hurling events will facilitate the chance to talk to a greater group of people about the sport. Possible options for involvement include:

- Running events such as 5ks and marathons
- Biking Events
- Volunteerism efforts such as the “Polar Plunge”, “Movember”, and work with groups such as Habitat for Humanity
- Representation at the Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair

Danial Sharp provided a list of additional events that can also be considered. Players will also be asked to wear their jerseys/t-shirts at non-hurling events where applicable. Any event/volunteerism event could be backed up with a call to the local paper (GT, Barometer, or Advocate) to increase visibility. Holding a short practice at the Indoor Sports Park (during the Sunday 12:45-1:45 time frame) would also provide a chance to recruit.

In addition to other events, Joe has spoken with Robert Lahue of the Salem team to help film a series of You Tube videos about the best way for new (American) hurling refs to identify fouls--including showing the resulting penalty. Robert noted in an email that before any filming started a series of storyboards would be necessary. This work would be done for free.

Team Bag

The team bag has seen a beating over the last year. Joe has agreed to make an attempt to fix some of the broken hurls, but should the fixes not work, ordering a some new hurls will be necessary.