



BRANTFORD OVER-35 RECREATIONAL SOCCER

<http://www.brantfordover35recreationalsoccer.ca>

FOR FUN, FITNESS AND FRIENDHIP

Minutes of the introductory meeting on November 29, 2015 at The Knights of Columbus, Brantford

Note: Minutes were not recorded. They are prepared from the recollections (three days later) of what was said at the meeting by Raman Chirakal.

Revised after comments from attendees: December 7, 2015

Meeting was called at 12:30. Attendees were asked to sign the guest book. Twenty-seven guests were present. Nine others and Vince's indoor soccer group (11:30 - 1:00) sent regrets.

Raman introduced himself and made a presentation explaining the agenda and objectives of the meeting.

Agenda: who are we? what are our objectives? Why start a new group? and What our plans are.

A major part of the presentation was explaining why we need to start a new group. After the presentation, there was open discussion.

Discussions started on the question why we need to start a new group. A major reason among many is that over-35 executive lacked transparency and openness when they conducted league business.

There was unanimous consent that the executive at Over-35 over reached their power and violated league's written policy when they decided to take additional disciplinary action against Tomo after routine red card offence during a Friday night game. Everyone agreed that Tomo's suspension of eight games and \$50.0 fine was totally unjust.

Several people were apprehensive about breaking up from Over-35 to start a new group. Many felt that they could alleviate all problems by taking appropriate steps at the next AGM. The same people wondered why we couldn't force the executive to convene a general meeting!

Raman explained that "rules are for rule abiding people" and our group had done everything within the League rules to meet with executive. Ninety-seven players (approximately 40% of the membership) signed a petition in August asking the executive to call a general meeting. It was completely ignored. The executive is well aware of the general apathy among members. They waited till the end of September to respond to Dave Dodds Jr. that they had no intention of calling a GM before next AGM. By waiting that long they avoided any contact with players. They knew that most of the opposition against the beer price in the club house and Tomo's suspension came from the Masters' group. So they decided to ignore and disallow the masters' captains at the captains' meeting. The Over-35 executive designed and executed their plan very well. Raman emphasized that we have an uphill battle because of lack of time and we must start organizing now.

There was unanimous consent and disbelief that the Over--35 executive was arrogant and insulting to the Masters' group when they decided to hold a Captains' meeting, in lieu of a GM, without inviting the captains from the Masters group. It is unconscionable that they would isolate and marginalize the senior members of the league.

A major discussion occurred on the amount of money the League has saved over the years and how we are going to be left in the "cold" if we break up and start a new group. Many senior players felt that they

had been ripped off their investment in the League. Some even suggested that we might consider obtaining a legal counsel to recoup some of the money from Over-35.

Obtaining a legal counsel was also suggested as way to force the Over-35 executive to call a general meeting. However, we have neither the time nor the money to pursue the legal route.

In his concluding remarks, Raman argued that both time and money are against us. Over-35 has the control of our money and they are free negotiating contracts on behalf of the League before the next AGM which would most likely be three-four weeks prior to the start of 2016 season. That gives our members hardly any time to have any input into the decision-making process that would affect the immediate future. This is a game the executive well planned and well executed. It is for us to decide if we want to continue in Over-35 League or be part of a new group where open dialogues are encouraged and members' rights to be heard are respected.

The meeting was called off 14:30.