



DOUGLAS PARK SOCCER CLUB

FALL 2011

President's Message

Welcome to both returning Douglas Park Soccer families and to those just starting out on their community soccer journey. It looks set to be another great season. Registrations are up for the fifth straight year – we now have 761 players registered for the coming season, with much of the growth coming in the younger age groups. This is particularly heartening for the continuing growth, both in our community, and city-wide, of the best sport in the world.

In seasons past we have often struggled to hold onto Divisional players (U13 and above) as they move onto larger clubs, but for the coming season we have also shown growth in these teams, maintaining most of the senior teams, and forming a couple of new ones. We will have two U18 boys' teams and both a boys' and a girls' U17 team, as well as U16 and U15 boys' teams. This is a testament to the hard work of the coaches, and the desire of so many players to continue to represent our club. We support the principles of the Canadian Soccer Association of 'soccer for life', and strive to keep players enjoying the game at whatever level best suits them.

Merger discussions with two or three Eastside clubs are still ongoing, and the need to move this forward is particularly acute in the light of the successful merger this April of three West side clubs; Kerrisdale, Point Grey and Dunbar, into a single club, now named 'Vancouver United'. Two of the parties – Vancouver Girls and Grandview Legion - have already merged, which should smooth the transition.

Hope to see you on the field!

Rob Sambrook
President, DPSC

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Kudos to...

The DPK Boys Blue Rangers - U15 Gold Divisional Champions

The U15 Douglas Park Blue Rangers had quite a successful year; They finished the regular season as League Champions in the U15 Boys Gold Division with a record of 7 Wins, 1 Loss and 4 Ties. Led by their Head Coach, Nick Perugini, the team had the best +/- record with 23 GF and 9 GA.

Most of these boys have been playing together for a number of years, and all the hard work and dedication these players showed last season paid off.

During spring break 2011, the team entered and won the 11th Annual LV Premiere Invitational in Las Vegas, Nevada. They were the only Canadian team and after four close, hard-fought games they conceded only one goal, and ended up as the U15 Champs.



This memorable trip was filled with great soccer and great times shared by the team and their families.

Congratulations on a great season!

Sharing Our Wealth Festival at Douglas Park September 18th 10-4

Free entertainment, carnival games, silent auction, community displays and of course the traditional **Douglas Park Soccer Club Parade** around the park! Stay tuned for more information on how you and your team can participate in the fun this year.

Community Centre Reminder

We appreciate all the amenities that are available to us at the Douglas Park Community Centre during our soccer season. However the community centre would like to remind all soccer players that cleats are not allowed inside the community centre building. Conveniently, there are washrooms on the south side of the building that players in cleats can use.



Fall 2011 Calendar of Events

DATES FOR FALL 2011

Wednesday September 7	Pre-Season Training Girls U8-U10 DPK East	U8-U9: 5-615pm U10: 630-730pm
Thursday September 8	Pre-Season Training Boys U8-U10 DPK East	U8-U9: 5-615pm U10: 630-730pm
Saturday September 10	Divisional (U11-U18) Official Season Start	
Wednesday September 14	Pre-Season Training Girls U8-U10 DPK East	U8-U9: 5-615pm U10: 630-730pm
Thursday September 15	Pre-Season Training Boys U8-U10 DPK East	U8-U9: 5-615pm U10: 630-730pm
Sunday September 18	Sharing Our Wealth Festival at Douglas Park	10-4pm
Saturday September 24	House (U6-U10) Official Season Start	
Sunday October 2	Photo Day at Douglas Park	TBA

DATES FOR COACHES AND MANAGERS

Tuesday September 6	Divisional (U11- U18) Coaches/Managers Meeting Tapestry Room (2821 Heather St. @12th Avenue)	630-8pm
Saturday September 10	House (U6-U10) Uniform/Equipment Distribution	1230-330pm
Saturday September 10	Grassroots Development Coaching Course	9-12pm
Tuesday September 13	House (U6-U10) Coaches/Managers Meeting	630-8pm
Sunday October 2	Children's Community Coaching Course	9am-5pm



Head Coaches' Message

This weekend I shipped off the last of my children (my last soccer player) to University. Honestly, it felt like a dagger in my heart... and it also got me reflecting, not only about where the years have gone but also about the things that have changed over the years - from when Laura started playing soccer to now; and especially over the last few years. Now as the season is starting I thought I would share these with you.

No more gravel fields (well almost)

...hip, hip hurray!. With the increase in available turf fields in Vancouver, centrally and downtown, the beautiful game can be played as it should be.

More Professional coaches

I am for this as the overall coaching standards have improved and, hopefully, the coach is becoming more accountable to the consumer. But against this is the fact that the profession is not regulated. Just because someone asks to be paid it doesn't mean they have the necessary qualifications and more importantly the necessary experience to coach house teams or even elite teams...but it is improving and will continue to improve.

Youtube Video's

All goals, saves, plays of the day as well as umpteen coaching drills are at your finger tips, Wow!

Online coaching material

There is a lot of great stuff to be found online, and much more of it than ever; articles, game analysis, and managerial tips; whatever you are looking for you can find online.

The turf shoe

I can't remember the gravel shoe, but I do remember how gravel ruined even your multi studs. With the increase in turf, folks are recognising that certain footwear (blades) are not good and increase the risk of player injury.

The flamboyant referee uniform

The black shirts have been replaced initially by conservative blue, yellow and red...and now pink, turquoise and lime green have all crept in!

The complete player

The days of the one dimensional player, the player with the big shot and the sole dribbler have gone. Players need to be comfortable in all positions and most of all, comfortable on the ball. Good technical ability and the ability to pass and receive and play possession are the keys today.

Possession

The ability to hold, drop, support and dribble when space is available is a joy to watch; playing keep-away from one end of the field to the other. Kick and chase does exist but it doesn't develop players in the same way.



Increase in female coaches

Great! The BCSA recognised this a few years back with the female apprentice program, and now we are seeing more female coaches at the coaching courses and on the sidelines with both girls and boys teams at all levels.

Tournaments

It seems there is at least one every month and there are definitely more opportunities now for the younger players.

Year-round soccer

Fall and winter used to be for soccer, hockey and softball - baseball was in the spring. Summer was set up for mischief, swimming, tennis and going to the beach. Soccer, just like many other sports is now played all-year-round. Spring soccer leagues, travelling teams, and academy training exist for those that have the desire. I am all for this as long as you can throw in some balance - especially at the early ages. Mix it up with other sports and activities, and take some down time to relax and recharge.

When I said goodbye to Laura I said that I will see her at Thanksgiving. "Sorry Dad, I'll see you at Christmas as I will be visiting friends at Thanksgiving". Laura there's no need to twist that dagger...

As we start a new soccer season...to all parents ...make the most of your player's soccer experience – enjoy it and take from it as much pleasure as you can...it goes so quickly.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Cheers, Steve

Player of the Year Awards 2010/11

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2010/11 Divisional Player of the Year Award – one for boys and one for girls. These are:

- **Christina Arcadi, from the U16 Girls' Pumas**
- **Derek Galinha from the U17 Boys' Eagles**

Both players exhibited outstanding work rate, a willingness to learn and an ability to play effectively in any position on the field. Both also demonstrated leadership by tirelessly looking for, and winning the ball – truly leading their teams by example.

They will each be presented with a plaque at the Sharing Our Wealth event this month. This also comes with a \$250 cash award. Congratulations to these two deserving recipients.



Registration Fees

Douglas Park Soccer Club can pride itself on sound financial management and an ongoing philosophy of trying to keep registration fees as low as possible. This year's fee increase was necessary for two key reasons.

1. A further increase of both practice and game time allocated on artificial turf fields.
2. An across the board increase in referee fees.

These are both welcome developments. DPSC now has practice time on turf at Andy Livingstone, Van Tech, Trillium, Memorial, Hamber and Point Grey. Moreover, we expect to have home games scheduled regularly at the first four of these venues. The days of playing Divisional games on gravel are probably all but over. This is a massive improvement on even just a few years ago.

The increase in referee fees was a response by the Vancouver Youth Soccer Association to the loss of good, experienced referees to adult leagues. There was already evidence of improving overall standards of refereeing last season, and we expect this to continue.



Volunteer for your Club in 2011/12

Thank you to who will be volunteering their time this season. Douglas Park Soccer Club is almost exclusively run by volunteers. It is only through the work and dedication of volunteer coaches, managers, coordinators, and many other positions, that the club can be vibrant, progressive and ultimately successful. All members are encouraged to step forward to fill important roles within the club.

The Club is looking to fill the following positions for 2011/12:

GIRLS U12 COORDINATOR

GIRLS U17 COORDINATOR

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER (IN TRAINING) - POSITION STARTS NEXT SEASON

Please email admin@douglasparksoccer.ca to express interest or to ask questions about volunteering with the Club.

