

President's Report

For Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Some of the year's highlights follow:

- The season had a faltering start, with the Civic strike providing challenges from field scheduling to accessing equipment and uniforms. All this on top of a changing of the guard, with a new Head Coach, President, Treasurer, Referee Coordinator and Club Administrator, as well as a change to the registration program.
- Our club this year consisted of 736 registered players from ages 5-37. Overall registration was up slightly from last year (3.5%), particularly in the girls' mini and boys' divisional groups. We fielded 23 boys' mini teams (to U10), 13 girls' mini teams, 15 boys divisional teams (U11 and up), and 5 divisional girls' teams, including the Vancouver Metro U16 team. We were also pleased to have a men's team again registered, for a total of 57 teams playing under the DPSC banner.
- Notable competitive successes this past season were the U12 Blue Devils (Boys), who were U13 Silver 1 Four District League Champions, and the U18 Gold 2 Rangers (Boys) who were Four District League Champions, Pioneer Cup finalists and Coastal 'B' Cup quarter finalists, as the Vancouver representatives. The senior (men's) team has qualified for the Provincial Championships.
- The Club once again received the Provincial Government, gaming funds. These have helped tremendously in balancing with the Club finances.
- The Club ended its contract with the Tony Waiters' Byte Size Soccer Program, as the usage of this program was very low, and many alternative (and free) resources are available. The full Canadian Soccer Association program will be adopted in the fall, with links provided on our website to their coaching resources.
- The desire to form more collaborative programs with other Vancouver clubs, has led so far to a collaboration with Marpole Soccer club; joint assessments were held on both the boys' and girls' side, and the increased player pool allowed the various levels of ability and commitment to be better accommodated. Douglas Park will continue to proactively seek better club collaboration, provided the terms are seen as beneficial to our membership.
- Central Soccer programs are being offered through the club again. In addition, our Head Coach is working on coach and player development within the club structure. The focus is on the younger age groups, for the long term health of the club and community.
- Community Coach Youth and CC Senior course are being offered through the club this summer. A Class 5 referee clinic is planned for the fall.
- Thanks to those volunteers who are stepping down:
 - Karen Moti – Referee Coordinator
 - Valerie Deveau – Gym Scheduler
 - Karon Cheng-Lay - U13 Girls' Coordinator
 - Chem Cohen – U18 Boys' Coordinator

- The club is being held together by a small handful of exceptionally dedicated (and exceptionally busy) volunteers. A frustrating aspect of this season has been the difficulty mobilizing much of the membership to volunteer even a small amount of their time for the benefit of the club.

Rob Sambrook
President, Douglas Park Soccer Club
May 21, 2008.