

President's Message

Well, as a season of change draws to an end, it's time to take a look at how things went, and what we plan to do in the next season.

On the field, the Grounds Committee's innovative work in catering for our small-sided teams paid off. The new field layouts worked well – the changeovers of Fields 2, 3 & 4 went smoothly, and we were pleased that the central walkway stayed clear during games. Thanks to Bill Young and Gary Strucke and the volunteers who have helped them to prepare the fields each week.

Changes to our drafting process had a big impact on teams, and you are, no doubt, familiar with the main details!

Inevitably, not all of the changes met with total approval. A number of players dropped out of the league because siblings in the same division were not drafted together. Others dropped because they weren't happy with their team's practice day or location. And, as always in the spring, still more dropped or missed games because of conflicts – sporting and otherwise.

This situation was complicated because we assigned everyone who registered, rather than maintaining a waiting list, and as a result several teams were seriously short of players. Nevertheless, with a single exception, we stuck to the principle that players would not move between teams, because above all we wanted to remove any possibility of manipulation of the draft.

Our observation is that the balancing of teams was generally successful – many games ended with close results, although there were certainly some exceptions!

We believe we've made a good start, and we'll make adjustments next season to address the shortcomings. We'll keep siblings together where requested – and rest assured that there will be a waiting list! The cut-off date for registration and for determining divisions will be October 1st, bringing us into line with the school year.

We'll continue to refine the player evaluation process that we began this season, looking for more consistency. At the Board's discretion, certain dominant players in the younger divisions will be invited to play up one division, to improve competitive balance and ensure continued player development.

We're still interested in finding out if there's a desire for all-girl teams in divisions where they're feasible – please be sure to let us know on your registration form

Our 110 coaches and assistants have done a great job as usual – we hope they all enjoyed the experience! We do continue to see over-zealousness in some quarters, and if this problem persists we will look at ways to address it.

Your feedback, both positive and critical, has been important in helping us to address the season's issues. Please let us know how things are going – even if you think they're going well! We know there's more to do, but we hope you'll feel that we're on the right road.

During the summer we'll be laying new sod in some areas of the field, and we also hope to bring the old baseball field into use, giving us much-needed additional playing space.

Enjoy the summer, get your registration in early, and don't forget to sign up for summer camp! See you in the fall...

Lou Napolitano, President

Trophy Day - June 17th

Trophy Day is June 17th, and will be held at our fields. Your coach will have more detailed information nearer the time.

Traveling Team Tryouts

*Tryouts for boys' and girls' Traveling Teams in all age groups will be held at our fields on **June 3rd, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.** Anyone who was born on or after August 1st, 1980 is invited to come and try out.*

Summer Camp

If you haven't done so yet, don't forget to sign up for our summer soccer camp.

Once again this year it will be run by Monmouth University's coaching staff. This camp is an opportunity for your children to consolidate and improve their skills and learn new techniques by working under professional guidance, and it's always well attended.

*Make a note now, and sign up soon: the camp will be held at Pinelanders each weekday evening during the week of **July 31st through August 4th.** The cost is **\$75** for the first child in each family, **\$65** for other children. The camp is open to players in all divisions. Registration forms are available at the snack bar.*

Rick Amsterdam

Registering For Next Season

With this newsletter you should receive a pre-printed registration form for the Fall '95 season. This form includes information from the computer, and should be much easier to fill out than in past seasons.

Use of the pre-printed form will also help to keep our information accurate. Please check printed information carefully, and make clear alterations to anything which needs to be changed.

We anticipate a high registration in the fall, and you are urged to sign up early, to be sure of a place. **Forms must be returned by Trophy Day, June 17th** - otherwise they will have to be submitted at a walk-in session, and your child may be placed on a waiting list. Please return your form to your coach.

Note that registrations will be rejected if they are not completed properly, including a *dated signature and a volunteer selection.* If your form is unsigned, neither you nor your child is protected by insurance should an injury occur, and the club cannot accept the responsibility of allowing an uninsured child to play.

Siblings of current club members can also be registered early – please ask your coach for a sibling registration form. Additional sibling forms are available at the snack stand. Please **do not give sibling forms to friends**; any family not registered for the Fall '94 or Spring '95 season *must* register at a walk-in session, to be announced.

If you have any questions about registration please call me.
Jem Treadwell

Traveling Team News

Congratulations to all our traveling teams, who have, as usual, fought hard all season and done a great job for Pinelanders. With just a few weeks left in the season, The Stealth (U15 Boys) and the Sharks (U10 Boys) are undefeated, and both are now guaranteed first place in their divisions!

No Dogs!

We'd like to remind you that **dogs** are not allowed at the fields, for reasons of health and safety. Thanks for your cooperation!

Well Done To Our Refs!

Our referees have been doing a great job as usual this season. We now have eighteen refs, including five adults, who between them will have refereed 280 intramural games by the time the season closes.

The skill and knowledge of our referees, many of whom are still in the early stages of their refereeing careers, should not go unrecognized – please take the time to congratulate them as we approach the end of the season!

Tom Connors, Referee Coordinator

Players and Practice

We're aware of several coaches who have had trouble this season with players disrupting practices and games through a lack of cooperation and team spirit. The problem is, of course, not new; nor is it by any means restricted to Pinelanders, or to soccer.

We'd like to ask parents who have had an indication from their coach that their child is disruptive to talk to the child before submitting a new registration form, to be sure that he or she really wants to play a team game, *as part of a team*. Most of our coaches take time away from work to coach our players, and few things are more frustrating for a coach than to finish a practice session feeling that nothing has been accomplished.

If you're aware of a problem, *please don't ignore it*. Our coaches are volunteers, usually not professional teachers, and it's not their responsibility to take abuse and disrespect from children who don't want to learn.

It's possible that the disruptive child really *does* know everything there is to know about soccer, but the coach is there to teach *all*

players on the team – and one disruptive player takes valuable learning time from all.

College Game '95

Our third annual college game, which this year featured **Monmouth University Hawks** against **Lehigh University, PA** was once again a great success. A crowd of more than 400 watched an exciting, fast-paced game in which Monmouth withstood steady pressure in the first half to take a well-deserved 1-0 win in the second.

If you missed it this year, make a note to be there for this game next Spring.

Thanks For The Container!

If you look carefully around the field you'll notice that we have a new storage container, which will take care of our equipment storage problems as the club continues to grow.

Our thanks go to **Jimmy White** of **Triton Industries**,

Summit, NJ, who donated the container, and to **Nelson Walling**, President of **Central Concrete** of Farmingdale, who donated the stone used as a base. Special thanks to **Rich DeVirgilio** for making this whole thing happen!

Snack Bar & Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who's put time into helping out the club this season, including those who helped with the snack bar, the grounds, administrative work, and distributing flyers for the college game.

We've had great support from many people who have acted as snack bar supervisors, spending 3 to 5 hour shifts in the snack bar before, during and after games.

Hats off to all the buyers, supervisors and team volunteers who pitched in and helped, and a special mention to **Sue Messina**, who went above and beyond in the amount of time she spent supervising. Many of our teams were also well organized in the way they assigned teams to their duty slots, and we thank everyone involved.

Please check the lost & found at the snack bar for any items you may have lost. We have jackets, sweatshirts, shirts, soccer balls, a watch and two partly-eaten hot-dogs.

We're need volunteers to help on a more regular basis next season – duties would include early set-up, end-of-day close-up, stocking, etc. Interested? Please leave your name at the snack bar.

Coaching and Refereeing Courses

Twenty four of our coaches qualified for FIFA's F-license in the spring, taking the course at our own class. Another course will be held in the fall, and all coaches who haven't yet taken it are strongly encouraged to sign up.

Our next refereeing course will be held at Jackson Middle School, over the following days:

Tuesday, June 6th, 6-10 p.m.

Saturday, June 10th, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13th, 6-10 p.m.

Anyone over 12 is invited to sign up for this course. The fee is \$25, which the club will refund after one season of refereeing work.