

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Players and Parents:

I would like to welcome all of you to our Spring 2002 season. For the first time in our history we have now grown to well over 800 recreational players, a record number of teams (64) and a coaching staff of well over 100 coaches and assistants. Also, we have been able to cut the age differentials in our oldest division and create a new Division 1 grouping. This is the first time we have been able to make this split. And finally, we are proud to begin our pilot 4 year old program. We are all excited about these changes and are happy to be able to bring such a quality program to our members.

During the winter months, your Board has been working hard, planning for the Spring season. We held a new coach licensing clinic for those coaches getting their F level license and also had a record number of members, young and old alike, who took and successfully passed their thanks to **Bob Hoenig** for organizing and running both these sessions and the many Friday nights and Saturdays he gave up to make this happen.

You will see, mainly in the younger divisions, a number of new youth referees who are trained, qualified and eager to exercise their new knowledge. We ask that you treat them with respect and I am sure they will be respectful in return. Remember, they are new, learning the role of a ref and are USSF qualified after taking a rigorous course and written exam. Please encourage them and most of all, give them a chance!

Also, during the winter months we ran our very successful indoor program and I know fun was had by all. Special thanks to **Tony Valenziano** who gave up his Friday nights during all of January and February to run that program and making it such a success.

Your education committee, headed by **Lynn Hoenig**, has been busy putting together a lending library for our coaches that will include videos and books. I suggest that the coaches contact Lynn and see what she has to help you improve your skills and transfer those to our youth.

It was also a very sad winter break. One of our coaches, **Tony Valenzano**, (*please don't confuse Tony with the like-named Tony Valenziano*), passed away quite suddenly at a young age. Our thoughts are with Tony's family. We will miss Tony very much and have decided that our seasonal coaching award, awarded at Trophy Night, will now be named in Tony's memory.

Best wishes for an enjoyable season, I look forward to meeting our new members as well as welcoming back our returning players. I ask that you all get more involved in **your** club and when you get that call to help out you will do so willingly and cheerfully....we don't ask for much! If you don't get a call for some reason, please step forward and ask what you can do to help out – believe me, a club this size needs all the volunteer help we can get, no matter what your skill may be!

Please remember, let the players play and encourage them, let the coaches coach and support them and let the referees ref and respect their decisions. This is recreational soccer and a learning experience for our children, so let's all have fun!

Ken Kinelski – President

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LENDING LIBRARY - The Education Committee is in the process of putting together a collection of books and guides for coaches and referees. This material will be available in the trailer in a "lending library" format. This is a work in progress that we hope to expand over the coming years, as part of an ongoing effort to provide the best possible support and training for coaches and refs. See Lynn at the fields for more information.

BE SMART – KNOW THE RULES!

We spent a lot of time during this "off season" attending coaching seminars, referee seminars, and workshops. One theme we heard over and over again was "know the game." This applies to referees, coaches, players, and – yes – **parents!** Everyone involved should be at least somewhat familiar with "The Laws of the Game." You don't have to memorize them, or even learn them as thoroughly as a referee... but being familiar with them will help you to understand what's going on out on the field – and make the game more enjoyable to watch. You can get a copy of the Laws (it's really just a

booklet) through most sporting goods catalogues, at many sports stores or through the United States Soccer Federation (www.ussoccer.com). You can even download them from the USSF, FIFA (www.fifa.com), or NJYS (www.njyouthsoccer.com).

ASK US! As always, members of the Education Committee – and the Board of Directors – are available to answer any questions you may have about coaching, refing, or the game. Feel free to see us at the fields, or at any Club activity.

REFEREE SCHOOL. 52 referee candidates attended a USSF ref school sponsored by our club in January. Not even a snow storm on the first day could dampen the spirits of these teenagers and adults. 90% of those who attended passed the course and obtained their referee licenses. As a result, 24 new refs are joining our ranks this spring. These new referees will now take part in a club training program that will teach them rules specific to Pinelanders – and help them develop into skilled soccer game officials. As always, the Board of Directors asks you to cooperate by showing respect for our referees and by refraining from engaging in verbal abuse.

COACH EDUCATION. During the winter the Education Committee hosted an "F" License school for new coaches. Club policy requires all coaches to obtain an "F" License within two seasons of their first assignment. The Club sponsors these classes each winter and summer to make it more convenient for our coaches to meet this requirement. Thirteen of the 22 participants in this winter's class were Pinelanders.

If you are thinking about becoming a coach, please consider taking this class the next time we offer it. In addition to meeting various legal requirements, the "F" License course gives coaches and prospective coaches a chance to learn the basics of the game, to get an overview of the rules, and to see some basic drills that are especially useful for younger players. We've already begun planning for our next course, this coming summer. Watch our webpage for details.

Lynn & Bob Hoenig – Education Committee Co-Chairs

TEAM PICTURES

Team picture nights are scheduled for **Monday, March 25 at Griebing School**, and **Tuesday, March 26 at Land O'Pines School**. We're getting the photos taken earlier this season, with the hope that pictures will be delivered before the end of the season. Coaches should have packets of information and an appointment time before the season opens.

We suggest arriving 15 minutes before your picture appointment. This gives coaches a chance to organize their teams, and gives everyone one last chance to get paperwork filled out. Players should wear uniform shirts and shorts. Shin guards, etc are not necessary. And we ask that you pay close attention to instructions from the photographers' staff and the club volunteers coordinating the event.

These pictures are a great keepsake and make an excellent gift for grandparents. Even if you don't want a photo package for yourself, please allow your child to take part in the team photo.

referee licensing course. Special

NEW JERSEY SELECT SOCCER CAMP

Our regular summer soccer camp, hosted by Wayne Ramsey, will be held each evening, **July 29th - August 2nd**. Watch for more details.

CLUB POLICIES

The Club's full policy document is now available for you to download and print from our web page, and we'll have copies at the snack bar during the season.

Although we have been following most of these policies for many years, this is the first time we have published them in a single document. We hope that, along with our Bylaws, which are also available for download, they will help you to understand more about how the Club operates, and how the Board makes its decisions. If you have any comments or questions, please let us know, either by e-mail or by talking to any Board member.

Jem Treadwell

HSF SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Howell Sports Federation** is once again awarding college cash scholarships to its member organizations' players. Application forms and eligibility criteria are available through any Freehold Regional High School District high school guidance office. They are also available at many of the area parochial schools, as well as all schools in the Monmouth County Vocational school District. Should information not be available, members of Pinelanders can send e-mail to Ken.Kinelski@pinelanders.com for further information. The deadline for application is March 31st, 2002.

MLS DRIBBLE, PASS & SHOOT

On Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18, PYSC, will again be host to the MLS Dribble, Pass and Shoot event. The event will occur during game times on Friday, beginning at 6:30pm and on Saturday, beginning at 9am.

This free event tests three essential skills of soccer: dribbling, passing and shooting. The age divisions are 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-14 with boys and girls competing separately. The first place winners of each age/gender group (except 67 bracket) will move on to the "sectional competition", then possibly the Team Championship on the field pre-game at one of the MetroStars games and then possibly the National Championship at MLS Cup 2002.

This event is free and is open to the public. I hope and expect that Pinelanders will have an overwhelming participation!

Eric Hlava

OLIVIA ZONIS

As you may have heard, Olivia is 6 years old, a member of the D6 Hotshots, and has recently been struck with an inoperable brain tumor. She has been undergoing radiation treatment, and will shortly begin a new course of treatment. I'm delighted to say that in the last few days we've learned that the treatment so far has been very successful, and Olivia has reacted extremely well. In fact we even expect her to be playing soccer with the Hotshots again this season.

Nevertheless, she has a long road ahead of her, and her family is faced with continuing high medical bills. They have started the **Olivia Zonis Foundation** to help to pay some of the bills – the Club has made a donation and we will be holding a fund-raiser at the beginning of the season. We ask you to contribute as much as you are able. If you would like to make a donation directly, please send it to **The Olivia Zonis Foundation, 13 Long Road, Freehold, NJ 07728.**

We have set up a web page for the Foundation on our site, and if you are able to set up links to the page from other community web pages we would appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

The spring season 2002 looks to be an exciting one, with the inception of our newest division – D7 (4 year-olds) – the expansion of the upper divisions to form a new D1, and our club record breaking numbers – 825 and climbing – the season should be fun for all.

Just a few thoughts before we start the season...

As spectators, let's learn the laws of the game. Knowing the laws makes it easier and much more enjoyable to watch the game. Also, let's be sporting and courteous to the players and other spectators.

Coaches give of their time. Help if you can. Most coaches are only looking for one hour of practice a week. Make sure your child is there or call the coach to let them know your child won't be there. Communication is not that much to ask.

Check the message board on the side of the trailer for all the Club news.

Let's have a great season; see you at the fields!

Tom Brandli – Commissioner

HOWELL SPORTS FEDERATION NEWS

NJ State Senator Robert Singer will address the Howell Sports Federation membership at our March 26th, 2002 meeting to be held in the Council meeting room in the Howell Twp. Municipal Building. Special thanks to Tony Richardson for helping to make this possible.

This is an HSF regular meeting, and we would like to see our clubs represented by as many members as possible. Senator Singer is our representative to the State, and this is our opportunity to make him aware of the state of recreation in Howell and to find out what he can do for us. Please do your best to attend this important meeting!

TRAINING YOUR TEAM

Coaches, the basic principles of training are: organization of the training session; providing your players with more practice; using the ball as much as possible; making practice enjoyable; and providing feedback.

Let's address each point separately:

1) You should **organize** your training session. Depending on what skills you want to improve you should choose the most useful exercises and prepare all the materials needed before starting. Sit down the night before and plan out your practice. Don't try to wing it, players and parents can tell!

2) The number of **repetitions** is the foundation. You learn through repetition, so why do line drills that limit the number of opportunities? It is extremely important to use drills in which **players are practicing** and not waiting for "their turn."

3) **Touches, touches, touches!** We want our players to become skilled at ball handling, so why restrict their number of touches with huddled lectures and line drills? Try not to have players run (or even stand) without a ball. If a player must sit out of an exercise even for a short period of time, have him or her juggle! When lecturing to the team, have them do some simple dribbling drills within a marked area and do your talking as you walk around them. Even conditioning training can be done using the ball.

4) **Practice should be fun.** There is more learning if the training session is fun. So, why not have challenges between individuals or small

groups – e.g. 1 on 1 or 2 on 2?

5) While the number of repetitions is important, it is even more important that players experience **quality touches**. If a player repeats a drill a large number of times without any coach control the learning is not so automatic. **Correcting** players is probably one of the most important (and also difficult) things in a coach's work.

Respecting the principles above will certainly improve your training session, and should help you to gain better results. Good luck!

Eric Hlava – Secretary

E-MAIL

If you have an e-mail address and you haven't been receiving mail from us, please send a message to pinelanders@pinelanders.com, and I'll add you to our list. We do not publish email addresses or share them with any other organization.

- Jem Treadwell

HOWELL UNITED TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Fall 2002 season for traveling teams playing in the Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association will be held as follows:

❖ For U8 Boys and Girls (born on or after 8/1/94):

- Location: Howell Middle School North
- Monday, June 3, 2002 from 6 to 7:30p.m.
- Wednesday, June 5, 2002 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Rain date is Monday, June 10

❖ For U9 Boys and Girls (born on or after 8/1/93):

- Location: Howell Middle School North
- Tuesday, June 4, 2002 from 6 to 7:30p.m.
- Thursday, June 6, 2002 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Rain date is Tuesday, June 11.

❖ All players attending MUST wear a WHITE shirt.

For information contact Tom Murphy (732) 751-1298