



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Players and Parents:

Welcome to our Fall 2006 season! For those of you who are new, we welcome you to the Pinelanders Family. We have served thousands of children during our 35 year existence and we hope you have a very enjoyable experience. To those returning players and families, welcome back, we hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready for another exciting season of fun!

We have another great season planned, with many key dates on our web site. I encourage you to check it often for updates, especially when we are anticipating bad weather. Other dates and events are mentioned in this newsletter—for example: our mid-season coaches' meeting and our picture nights. There are **two** mandatory coaches' meetings during the season, so coaches please plan on attending both of them. Our picture sessions are mentioned in Lynn Hoenig's column. Trophy Night, when we recognize all of our players, is planned for **Saturday, November 18th** at Middle School North (unfortunately the weather at that time of the year does not allow us to hold it at our fields, as we do in the Spring season). Please mark these important dates.

As always, we are in need of volunteers in all categories. All Board members serve as volunteers and we can't run an organization this large without your help. When you get the call to volunteer please do so cheerfully in support of **your** club. How can you help? We are in need of people to act as snack bar supervisors and grounds helpers, specifically to line fields. The field lining is easy and not too time-consuming...if we have two people each Friday for a 10 week season that would be fantastic. If you can help with the fields (please!!!!) contact **Simon Smit** or **Bill Rittweger**; they will be more than happy to train you for this important task. If you would like to be a snack bar supervisor, please contact **Bobbi Sue Bowers**. Or, if you prefer, please contact me or any Board member at the fields on any weekend.....**We need you!**

The Board has just about completed its restructuring after the elections in June. I would like to welcome **Kim Brown**, **Bill Bennett** and **Bill Letona** who have volunteered to be part of our appointed Board; I can't thank them enough for stepping forward. Coach **Donna Spendley** has expressed interest and has been invited to join the Board, and we await her response. We have been working to bring more people on board in the active management of the club to make it run even more efficiently than it does today, and to get more folks involved. If you have an interest in getting more involved, would like things changed, or are just interested in serving your community, please let any Board member know... we would love to have you, we have lots of committees that need active volunteers.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable season, but please remember that our main goal is to teach the game of soccer through skills development: sportsmanship is paramount, **not** winning games by overwhelming scores. We all need to be fair and let the children play and encourage them with **positive** comments. Too often, we hear negative comments from parents and coaches, and we will not tolerate it! Remember, let the coaches coach and let the refs referee and ensure the safety of your child through enforcement of the laws of the game. We are all here to have fun and provide for the best positive experience for our children.

See you all at the fields!

Sincerely,

- **Ken Kinelski, President**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Congratulations to four newly appointed members of the Pinelanders Board of Directors. The addition of parents **Kim Brown** & **Bill Letona** and coaches **Bill Bennett** & **Donna Spendley** brings the Board up to full strength with twenty members.

TouchLine

August 2006

Under a restructuring plan approved by the membership late last year, and now being implemented, you elect twelve members, and the elected Board appoints the other eight. You can find a full Board list on our website.

Even with a full complement of twenty members, it takes a lot to run an organization this size. Any help you can give is appreciated. Thanks!

- **Bob Hoenig, Board Secretary**

MARIO'S MUSINGS

First, a big thank-you to all our coaches and assistants, some of whom are returning and some of whom helped man the pumps as the flood of late registrations cascaded in. For the first time ever we came close to eliminating teams because of a lack of coaches—a position we certainly don't relish and hope we won't have to consider again. We're still short of assistant coaches in some divisions, so if you can help please let your coach know. And if you're in D3, give Coach **Mike Benedetto** a big hug.

We're delighted to have our new D6G division in place: we asked if you wanted it and, after a bit of hesitation, you gave us an emphatic "yes". We're starting with eight teams, and we expect to grow from there. This will, of course, change the dynamics of the co-ed division, D6, and over the course of the season we'll be monitoring the impact to determine if we need further changes. Your feedback is, as always, very valuable.

Finally, we'll be holding our regular clinics this season: please watch for announcements on the Web page and the bulletin board. Coaches **Mike Palladino** and **Vinnie Cafiero** will once again be offering their expertise, and there's no cost, so please take advantage of this opportunity for your children to improve their skills under expert guidance.

- **Mario Guarino, Commissioner**

PLEASE HELP OUR REFEREES

Another season is near and I would like to remind you that we have many young referees who are still in the learning stages of their careers. Just as we always want to provide a friendly atmosphere for our players, we also want to provide a friendly atmosphere for our referees to develop.

Regardless of the age of the referee, **no verbal abuse of any referee will be tolerated**. However, if you have any input on the quality of the referee in a particular game, please let me know. You can find me at the fields, or send me e-mail at Lou.Hagggar@pinelanders.com.

- **Lou Hagggar, Referee Assignor**

TEAM PICTURES

Get ready for team pictures: Photo nights are scheduled for **September 20 and 21**, at Land O'Pines School.

For new members, we give you the opportunity each season to have your child's picture taken with his/her team and individually. Over the years, it's amazing to look at the pictures and see how your son or daughter has grown! These photos make great keepsakes and gifts for grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. We also give our coaches a group photo of their teams each season as a thank-you for their time.

Our photographer, All Sport Photos, makes a variety of affordable photo packages and novelties available to you. We've been using ASP for years, and they get rave reviews for the quality of their work.

Each team will have a specific photo appointment. Your coach will let you know when your team's pictures will be taken. You'll also get a price list and information on package options at that time.

If you have any question before them, you can e-mail me at Lynn.Hoenig@pinelanders.com.

I strongly urge you to take part. At the very least, come out and have your child's picture taken with his or her team.

- **Lynn Hoenig, VP/Fundraising Chair**

SNACK BAR VOLUNTEERS

Welcome to Pinelanders 2006 Fall season! Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to be a Snack Bar Server or Supervisor. We ask that each family volunteer for one time-slot (either Server or Supervisor) during the season. Even if you have more than one child playing, you still need only volunteer once during the season.

If you have been a Server for a few seasons and are familiar with Snack Bar procedures, please consider switching your volunteer activity from Server to Supervisor.

Please contact me with any questions. Server time slots are one hour and Supervisor slots are two hours. Please schedule your time in one of the following ways:

- On the website: www.pinelanders.com, click on Snack Bar Schedule
- By e-mail: Bobbisue.Bowers@pinelanders.com
- Leave a message: 732-919-2111, #4

The schedule for the entire season is on the website. Please **do not** wait for a phone call. It is your responsibility to schedule your time.

Thanks and enjoy the season,

- *Bobbi Sue Bowers*, **Snack Bar Volunteer Coordinator**

UPCOMING CLASSES

Pinelanders will host a coach's **F-License** course on January 26 and 27, 2007. **All** our coaches are required to obtain an F-License after completing two seasons with the club. The F-License provides basic training in the game, coaching techniques, drills suitable for younger players, basic first aid, and liability and negligence laws. Coaches who hold an NJ Youth Soccer (NJYS) coaching certificate are covered under NJYS's liability insurance program, which protects you, the coach, and the club.

The F-License class runs nine hours. The state requires us to charge a \$30 fee per candidate. Coaches who successfully complete the class will receive a license certificate from NJYS. The F-License does not have to be renewed.

If you are a new coach, or you will have coached one or two seasons by the end of the Fall season, or if you're thinking about coaching, this is a great opportunity to complete this requirement right here in your own backyard.

For more information, or to register, please e-mail me at Bob.Hoenig@pinelanders.com.

We are also working on plans for a USSF **Referee School** in the Howell area this coming winter. Watch our website for news on this.

- *Bob Hoenig*, **Education co-chair**

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Communication is the key to making an organization as large as ours work. Our Registrar, *Jem Treadwell*, and I are the two of the people you'll be hearing from the most over the next few months. And as Secretary, part of my job is to provide you with a channel to get your views to the club's Board of Directors. Got a gripe? A compliment? Did you see a referee do something you really liked? Got a problem with a coach (ouch!)? I can get your message to the right person, or to the full Board.

I'm logged into my e-mail account almost all day, so feel free to write. My e-mail address is Bob.Hoenig@pinelanders.com. I'll do my best to get back to you quickly, and to make sure the appropriate person gets the message.

I look forward to hearing from you—or speaking with you at the fields.

- *Bob Hoenig*, **Board Secretary**

A SLOW START AND ANOTHER LONG WAITING LIST

Despite our best efforts, we seem to be failing in a very important element of the season: persuading our members and potential members about the importance of registering in time to allow us to plan and prepare.

Preparation for this season was about the toughest I remember: as we approached the decision day for division sizes, and hence the number of coaches we needed to recruit and the shirts we needed to order, our numbers were way down, and we made pessimistic assumptions. Then the

numbers began to pick up, and in the last few days before the draft we added more teams in several divisions. Then Mario had to scramble to try to get more coaches, and Bobbi Sue had to order more shirts. Then I stopped processing registrations, and turned my attention to getting players assigned and the schedule set—with just one player on the waiting list. Then the forms kept coming in.

As I write this, just four days after the draft, I have a total registration of 926, and 38 players on the waiting list. All 38 will have to wait until after the first weekend of the season to play, and some of them will not be able to play at all, because we simply will not have room for them. By the time Mario and I begin the task of assigning, there will certainly be many more than 38, and all will have to be assigned by hand, trying to keep the balance of the draft intact. It's a lot of work, a lot of waiting, and it all could have been avoided.

I hope that by next season I'll have on-line registration available, which will cut down the paperwork, and make the process faster and easier for everyone. But I'm resigned to the fact that no matter how easy we make it, no matter what deadlines we set, and no matter how many reminders we send, we'll always start the season with a long waiting list. Feel free to prove me wrong :0)

- *Jem Treadwell*, **Registrar**

E-MAIL: CURT v. COURTESY

E-mail is, of course, a wonderful invention—without it, we could never have had spam. And it has other uses too: it's certainly cut down on the number of phone calls I've had to make over the past few seasons.

But it can also cause frustrations. My busy e-mail season runs from January to December, so, as it's now at its height, here are a few random tips that can help to make it a blessing, and avoid some of the curses:

1. Make sure your name appears in your "From" address. Look at the mail you get from me and Bob—when it appears in your in-box you should be in no doubt who we are and that we're from Pinelanders. If your "From" address just shows your e-mail address or your first name, it's a problem for your recipients.
2. Make your subject relevant. If you just say "hi" in the subject and I don't know who it's from, it's going in the spam bucket unread.
3. Sign your name at the bottom of your message, below your text. Not *in* the text—below it. We want to know who's sending this message.
4. When you're replying to a message, include the original text—don't delete it. It's incredibly *helpful* to have it there, so we remember what the conversation is about, and so that if necessary we can forward it off to someone else and say "Please look at this mail-trail and help this person," and it's incredibly *unhelpful* to have to explain what the conversation is all about.
5. When you're replying and (correctly) including the original message, begin your response at the *top*—not at the bottom. We don't want to scroll down to find it; that's too much work and we might not bother.
6. Sign your name. I know I said that above, but I like to repeat important things, and if I run out of space I can make the font smaller.
7. Check your mail. You miss a lot of good stuff if you don't check it frequently, and you have to get rid of all that spam anyway.
8. Be courteous, not curt. Open your message with a friendly greeting, and finish it with a nice signature (see item 6). Use smiley faces—they make your point in a friendly way. We're all trying to do the right thing for all our members, even if we're saying "no," or asking you to volunteer for something. Read your mail before you click "send," and imagine you're the (volunteer) recipient.
9. If you're replying to a message that was sent to more than one recipient, think about using "reply to all," rather than just replying to the sender. Why was it sent to all those people? If you think the sender wanted to get individual responses from everyone, just "Reply." If it was to keep everyone in the loop, "Reply to All."
10. Don't use all capitals. They're so annoying. If your computer does it without you knowing why, try pressing the Caps Lock key, and see if that light on your keyboard goes off. If it goes *on*, take your finger off the Shift key when you type.
11. Make sure I have your current e-mail address. If you haven't seen e-mail from me in a couple of weeks, I don't. You can check it on My Pinelanders.
12. Ignore this one. It was going to be about being brief, but I decided not to push my luck.

- *Jem Treadwell* :0)