

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Players and Parents:

I would like to welcome you all to our Spring 2001 season. This is a special year for our club as we are **celebrating our 30th Anniversary**. A special logo will be on all uniforms and coaches' shirts to commemorate this occasion. We are, I believe, the oldest organized sports organization in Howell Township. An honor to you all, for without **your** support and volunteerism, I am sure we would not have lasted as long.

In 1971, our club was founded by a group of dedicated men and women interested in promoting the game of soccer in Howell. Two of the original founders that I am aware of are **Gigi Andreyev** and **Hugh Hoffman**. Gigi owns Howell Glass on Route 9. Hugh Hoffman, after whom the fields we play on are named, was very involved in sports in Howell and the township named that complex in his memory. Many of our founders were members of the Russian Kalmuk community of Howell and all our functions used to take place at the Russian Hall in the Freewood Acres section of Howell. What began as a few teams who traveled extensively, including trips to Europe, has now evolved into the premier club we now have with well over 700 members each season.

Pinelanders' players have gone on to be remarkable soccer players in Division 1, 2 and 3 colleges over the years, an accomplishment to be proud of. We also have had members go on to become successful educators and business professionals. This game is more than just a sport; we teach good sportsmanship, leadership, responsibility and respect – traits needed for daily life.

We have another exciting season planned for everyone and I hope you all enjoy yourselves. We've had a couple of Board changes since our last newsletter and I would like to welcome **Dan Capper** as a new member and welcome back **Adnan Abu-Hala**, who assumes the role of Commissioner. We will sorely miss **Tom Brandli**, who has been our Commissioner for many years and now has decided to take some well-deserved time off.

I would like to ask each of you to get more involved in **your** club – no matter how much time you have to dedicate, any help is appreciated and needed. As we continue to grow, we need more and more folks to help out. There are many talents we can use, from the trades to administrative personnel... there is an awful lot to running an organization this large. Thanks to all of you who have voluntarily demonstrated your dedication to Pinelanders, and to those of you who are not already involved, please consider offering your help.

Best wishes for an enjoyable season, I look forward to meeting our new members as well as welcoming back those of you who have been with us in the past. Please remember: let the players play and **encourage them**, let the coaches coach and **give them your support**, and let the referees ref and **respect their decisions**.

Please remember that this is recreational soccer and we are a teaching organization. This is not major league soccer... let's all have fun!

Sincerely,

Ken Kinelski – President

FUNDRAISING

Our **Picture Days** are scheduled for later this month. Details are still being worked out. Your coach will have them for you shortly after the season begins. For those of you new to the club, I think you'll find these pictures a great keepsake.

Lynn Hoenig – VP & Fund Raising Chair

EDUCATION

13 Pinelanders successfully completed the NJYS F License class held at Pinelanders in February. We are planning an NJYS "Y" Clinic for coaches in Divisions D6, D5, D5G, D4 and D4G in April. Details will be available at the **Coaches' Meeting**. The Education Committee is always available to answer your questions about the game. Please feel free to contact us at the fields, or e-mail us at **BobH@pinelanders.com**.

Bob and Lynn Hoenig – Education Coordinators

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. Plan out your practice the night before. 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 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

REGISTRATION

Our numbers are high again this season – at around 740 we're much higher than last Spring, and heading for the Fall's record of 770. I'm particularly pleased that D3G, which we struggled to form last Spring, has now grown to 6 teams. D5G has grown to 5 teams for the first time.

Despite that, we still need a few more players in some divisions, to get the teams to optimal numbers of players. So if you know anyone who wants to play, please ask them to call 919-2111, mailbox #1, or print a registration form from our web page, www.pinelanders.com.

We try to avoid having odd numbers of teams in a division, because that requires a bye game each week. Five teams in a division is particularly bad, because each team has two weeks with no game. Unfortunately sometimes it's unavoidable: we do have that situation again this season, and our apologies go to everyone in those divisions. We hope to have a creative solution this season for D4 & D4G, but maybe next season we can push the numbers up to 6 teams, and give everyone a full 10 games!

Jem Treadwell – Registration