

## President's Report

Helping to guide and lead a community-based, non-profit organization like the PCSA is a challenging and rewarding role. Without the unending work done by our coaches, managers, parents, volunteers and Board members, it would not be possible. Keeping the focus on our young athletes and the game we all love has been my main prerogative all season. This will remain so in 2018.

There were many developments throughout my first year in this position:

- While many of us continue to wrestle with some of the elements of LTPD, we are clearly seeing benefits on the pitch as players develop within its guidelines. We have **several teams poised to play at the CSL level in 2018. That is the highest level of play** at which our teams can compete. We expect all of them to be competitive and challenge for titles and Cups. At many age cohorts we have multiple teams which reflects our efforts at retention at the younger ages. Most of these Second teams are competitive in their respective leagues. This reflects well on the coaches and parents who have accepted the many benefits of LTPD.
- In saying this, we continue to be challenged to attract players at our youngest age groupings. This is problematic for us as we need players to receive quality coaching at a young age as they work on the basics of agility, balance and coordination while learning the game. Encouraging creativity and having fun while engaging in competition is something we can continue to strive to do. Promoting our development program and coaches is a paramount task in 2018.
- Under the direction of our **DOC, Vic Waselenko**, we have continued to grow our technical coaching team. **Coaching is absolutely vital** to player development. We are confident that the people we continue to bring to our team, promoting coaching development conferences and training, combined with adding important resources like the **UK-based Coaching Manual in late 2017** will only benefit all of our coaches and players.
- A major goal in becoming President was to pursue **talks with the Peterborough Youth Soccer Club (PYSC) about merging our organizations**. We spent a lot of time completing a SWOT analysis and analyzing why we should pursue this. We concluded that the benefits outweighed the drawbacks. We presented this to the PYSC and their Executive agreed. In November, they voted to pursue efforts to merge and I am hopeful that we will do the same at our AGM. Following that we'll begin the process of having our Peterborough house league and rep programs operating under one umbrella; this will benefit players, coaches, and families in both organizations on a number of levels. It is long overdue, and while there is work to do, we are excited to do it.
- We really do hope that this **may lead to talks with other soccer associations** in the Peterborough area. Building partnerships with other groups as we look to grow the game and enhance the experiences of players of all ages is a long-term goal. Our men's team was a competitive side all year, adding a women's team is another goal as soon as we can.

- Field scheduling was challenging due to the weather and the havoc it wreaked from spring through to late summer. Hundreds of practices and games were postponed or canceled by our club and others. It led to us **striking a Fields Committee in the summer**. That group is tasked with assessing opportunities to improve the players' experience in playing the game in our city. We know that quality fields and accessibility are ongoing issues so we are exploring different avenues to improve both of these items as early as 2018. We hope to have some announcements about this in the near future.
- Our summer camp was once again highly successful as more than 200 kids enjoyed the beautiful game down at Eastgate. Camp Director Sean Hazeldine, along with his coaches and student volunteers ensured that youngsters had a safe and enjoyable experience.
- We worked hard at meeting the requirements for retaining **our Gold Standard as an Ontario Soccer** club in 2018 and 2019. Dozens of documents were updated and created while we pored over our club materials and practices. Many people contributed to the countless hours of work required to do so, but it speaks well to how we operate our club.
- We promoted and branded some individual games as a **Match of the Month**. Our goals were to promote our players, help grow club spirit, and potentially raise some funds for the club. The games went very well with sponsors stepping up, volunteers helping out, and our teams delivering some excellent play. We hope to expand these events in 2018. We would like to feature new teams and Cup play when possible. We generated some funds for a new initiative to help out our players and families that may have financial challenges to play with our club.
- This new initiative is **City Cares. It is a fund** designed to augment other programs like Jump Start that help out families with registration fees. We want to see it grow in 2018 as we try and remove the financial barriers that some families experience.
- **We welcomed a new Academy Head Coach in 2018. Gergin Naoumov** brings years of experience as both a coach and player. Along with Franco Turnone, they are poised to grow the Academy and see our most talented and dedicated players in our district reach new levels in their development. We have about 60 athletes in our Academy and we are confident that it will be a great 2017-2018 training season. Outgoing Head Coach Vic Rocha led a couple of trips stateside last year which gave a few dozen of our players the opportunity to test themselves against some top Ontario and US-based teams. His work, along with his dedicated team, was instrumental to the success of our Academy in its formative years.

In closing, **my greatest hope is that we can continue to see all of our players be successful both on and off the pitch**. As we continue to build trust and pride within our club I think this is an achievable and important goal. I encourage all our members to contribute in any way that we can. I would like to invite **all members to approach me, our Board members, coaches, managers and volunteers with any ideas, comments and suggestions that will benefit our players**. Let's continue to make it about the young athletes that inspire all of us serve our club.