

President's Report

Being involved with a non-profit community association has continued to be a rewarding experience. There is always more work to do which is a challenge to meet, each day. We would not be able to serve our players' and families' needs without the great work done by our coaches, managers, parents, volunteers and Board members. Thank you to all of you for your time, effort and expertise. I continue to try and keep the focus on our young athletes and the game we all love. To see so many players enjoying the game we all love as part of the PCSA is the best part of being President.

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

- We continue to follow the broad guidelines of LTPD and I believe we are seeing those benefits as our players are building better technical skills each year. We have **several teams competing and winning at the CSL level. That is the highest level of play** at which our teams can compete in the U13-U18 ages. The **DRSL offers many of our teams very good competition also and we will have a handful of teams competing there in 2019.** Our development teams played in district leagues all season and enjoyed many festivals. Their enthusiasm is infectious for all of this.
- Our **numbers are growing slowly in the development ages.** We are lucky to have a dedicated group of coaches and parent volunteers who help to guide these young soccer players. Developing technical skills along with improving agility, balance and coordination guides our sessions in this age group. Encouraging creativity and having fun while engaging in competition is something we can continue to strive to do. Promoting our development program and coaches remains a paramount task in 2019.
- We fielded **5 Senior Teams in 2018.** We had not seen these numbers in years and all the teams were competitive in their respective divisions. Sundays became a key day for soccer in the city and many games were well attended by our members. We hope to continue to grow this experience by making these days into even more enjoyable for fans of all ages.
- Under the direction of our outgoing **DOC, Vic Waselenko and current Technical Director Mike Everson,** we have continued to develop our technical coaching team. **Coaching is absolutely critical** to player development at all ages. We are confident that the people we continue to bring to our team, promoting coaching development conferences and training, combined with on-line resources will continue to improve our players. I would **like to thank Vic for all of his efforts** in the role of DOC.
- A major goal in becoming President was to pursue **talks with the Peterborough Youth Soccer Club (PYSC) about merging our organizations.** We had a committee comprised of both PCSA and PYSC Board members that met regularly in 2018. We had support from others who helped to create a draft constitution and continue to conceptualize what a merged organization would look like. The PYSC has voted to merge the clubs at their recent AGM and we hope the PCSA membership will do the same at our AGM. Next steps would be to bring the groups together formally in 2019 which would improve the experiences for players and families in both groups.

- We remain hopeful 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 for many of us. **I would love to see our club be able to meet the needs of players from the ages of 3 to 103-plus.**
- 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. Despite all of the competing camps being held in Peterborough and the Kawarthas, our camp remains the option for young players wanting more soccer in the summer.
- We implemented our new initiative to support families and players in financial need, in the form of **City Cares. It is a fund** designed to augment other programs like Jump Start that help out families with registration fees. We supported many players with this and we do want to see it become a staple in our club.
- **We had really good feedback regarding our new Academy Head Coach, Gergin Naoumov and his team in 2018.** Older teams competed in some winter tournaments in Toronto last winter and all the players improved their technical skills with the additional training. **Along with Franco Turnone and others, they helped to grow the Academy from just over 60 players to over 90 for this season.** The kids are leaving training with smiles on their faces while being pushed in new ways at their sessions. We have a U16 Girls team competing in the Ontario Indoor Provincial League and other teams are likely to compete in 1-day tournaments in the GTA in the coming months.
- We are starting a mentoring program for coaches and players in 2019. A handful of Youth teams are being paired with a Development team to help with some practices, motivate young players and share some game experiences. Younger teams will be encouraged to attend some of the older teams' games and other shared events will be planned. We trust that the teams involved with both benefit greatly from this. We are piloting this with a few teams and then hope to implement this more formally in 2019-2020.

In closing, **I really do hope that our merger plans are realized and that we see a united club come out of a lot of hard work done by many people.** I plan on running for the position of President again, however, if someone else takes over the new role I hope they work towards the merger. I believe we have established a renewed pride in our club over the past two years and that we have had a core of Board Members who care deeply about our players, coaches, volunteers and parents. Once again, I encourage all our members to contribute in any way that they can in 2019. **While our AGM is one time when we see many faces and hear some voices express everything from unbridled praise to grave concerns,** I would like to see those **individuals who are passionate about our club offer more to all of us throughout the year to help better the club.** It has been an honour to help guide the PCSA in 2017 and 2018 – thank you for your ongoing support over the past 2 years.