

17 September 2022

President's Report

Summer 2022 was a season of reintegration. After two years of limited play, and geographical isolation, we rejoined the leagues we are meant to play in. There is much to celebrate and be proud of for our club. Overall, the successes of the Youth teams exceeded expectations. In the girls leagues we were champions in three divisions: U14 tier 1, U14 tier 2, and U15. Our U14 girls were runners up in the U15 division. An impressive showing for our girls. Our boys enjoyed similar success winning the U14 tier one and the U17 divisions (won by our U16 boys). Our U15 and U17 team were both runners up in their respective divisions. This is not to mention the various successes and championships at the tournament level. It should be no wonder why we have over 100 pre-registrations from other clubs for our tryouts next weekend. Our teams and our coaches are our best ambassadors. Congratulations to the coaches and players.

This success we need to be proud of, but not to rest on our laurels, because our club's next job is to support these teams as they continue to improve and to help them get to the next level of team success.

None of this is to say that there were no challenges this year. Indeed, we experienced frustrations reintegrating our developmental level teams, particularly at the younger levels where the teams had no competitive experience. Those that had played in the DRSL before the covid restrictions knew what to expect. They were better prepared for resumption of play and experienced success on the pitch, although, as you know, no scores or standings were kept. In the younger levels, players had developmentally fallen behind because of the lack of meaningful league and festival play over the past two years. It was also a challenge to know at what level in which they should play. In hindsight, we would have made some decisions differently, and we could have done more to manage the expectations of the parents. The consolation is, however, that smiles and sweaty faces were witnessed regularly upon the Peterborough field. Also, we are confident with our hard-won knowledge, that these teams will find themselves more appropriately placed, and more thoroughly supported next season.

Our club has emerged through the covid crisis stronger than it was before, and with the dedicated efforts of our staff and volunteers we find ourselves in a strong position financially and organizationally. This is in part because of the support of the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program (2021) and the Trillium Grant (of 2022). These grants were not merely doled out, but were the hard won victory of many volunteer hours, particularly of Todd Barr, our volunteer of the year for 2022. This has allowed us to recognize our coaches and managers for their efforts, but also to restore the facility fund which was used as an emergency fund in desperate times. This is no small accomplishment and speaks to the fiscal responsibility of our club.

The Peterborough Challenge Cup was also resurrected in record preparation time thanks to Messers Fevri Pazari and Barry Graham. Feedback was extremely positive and the

revenue was unexpected. We were also pleasantly surprised to resurrect the summer soccer camp which was coordinated by Biren Patel, and staffed by various coaches and kids. This also had an unexpectedly positive influence on our revenues.

Next year, there will be challenges. Besides inflating costs in general, our field rental fees from the city will likely triple. This is not because the City is tripling its fees, but because they will now charge for training sessions for the first time. We have been fortunate for years not to have to pay. Now we will have to, and it will necessarily mean registration fees will increase. We are working very hard now to creatively keep the fees down, but you must be prepared for them to increase. We are also without an indoor turf field for winter training. We hope Hybrid Sports will soon break ground, but we must acknowledge it will not be built for this season. The silver-lining is that this will help keep registration lower in the short term.

In planning for the future, we must continue the work of culture-building, yes, of soccer culture, but also (and I believe more importantly) of community culture. It is my express desire for this club, as president, to try to build the community by developing relationships between teams. We have begun by enlisting older players to work with the younger players at the U7 and U8 levels and the summer camp, so that the younger ones will have role models, and that the older players will see the fruits of their contribution paid out in spirit and close-connection. I want today's youngsters to be the future coaches and parents who come back for the love of the game, but stay for the love of the community. To this end, we work.

Humbly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Moore".

Dan Moore
President PCSA