

# INSIDE THE 18

FALL 2002

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER -PHIL KEATING

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS IN ATSC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS OF NCSL BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ATSC TEAM HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SWEATY SOCCER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PERSPECTIVE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>KEYS TO PLAYER, COACH, CLUB SUCCESS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SPORTSMANSHIP &amp; CODE OF CONDUCT</b>	<b>6</b>

My intention to welcome you to another year of travel soccer has been overtaken by three awful weeks in October. At first it was practices, then games, then tournaments and now our season that are entirely disrupted. Work by your ATSC Board during the summer promises an improved soccer playing environment as we regain our footing.

We have hired **Grant Smith** as our Director of Coaching. He sets forth his philosophy in the letter below. Grant grew up in McLean, was a high school All American at McLean High School, played varsity soccer at UVA, went on to play professionally, and is an experienced coach. He comes

highly recommended by the state coaching staff at VYSA. As a consequence, we expect that we will be working more closely with the Virginia Youth Soccer Association and his coach at UVA, Bruce Arena.

We've worked to improve field availability, quality and development. My thanks to each of you who participated in Arlington County's Open Space Master Plan and North Tract planning sessions. We'll keep you informed of any developments.

Why not contact members of the County Board and the Sports Office about Gunston field's new high quality surface, the need to invest in more fields like it, and

the value of sustaining field maintenance and development even in times of tight budgets? We are grateful to the Sports Office at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources for their work and concern about improved field playing surfaces.

Soccer is intended to be fun for the 500 young people in the ATSC. Let the Board and me know if there are things we can do to further enhance their experiences with travel soccer.

## DIRECTOR OF COACHING -GRANT SMITH

I appreciate Phil Keating's words about my soccer background and experience. I want to thank everyone who sent me a message or called welcoming me to my new position with the ATSC. It is wonderful to experience so much support and it is my intention to provide it to you in return.

In our lives and careers each of us sets goals we intend to achieve. My main goal as Director of Coaching will be develop our soccer players into the best

they can be. I hold strong opinions on how together we can achieve such a goal. My opinions are shared by the VYSA and U.S. Soccer. They are not mine alone.

It is important to understand that a coach's responsibility is to provide players a fun and challenging atmosphere to thrive.

Younger players need to focus on skills training and increasing their technical ability. Wins and losses should not concern us so much as preparing our players

for higher levels of play. Players need the technical ability to perform the many tactical maneuvers a coach will ask of him or her as they play the game at higher levels of competition. We should help them to become "complete" soccer players by age 18 when it actually matters to a coach who is able to further their soccer career.

*(cont'd on page 2)*

### OF NOTE

- **ATSC Soccer magnets are available**
- **Boys and Girls Player Representative appointed to ATSC Board of Directors**
- **Grant Smith hired as Director of Coaching**
- **Rules & Procedures Manual available on NCSL website**

**PLAYER MOVEMENT WITHIN ATSC - GRANT SMITH, DIRECTOR OF COACHING**

Several instances of late player movement among ATSC teams have been brought to the club's attention. This kind of activity creates problems for teams who lose players late in the pre-season. It makes it difficult to find replacements. If no recruiting was involved, there was no infraction of the rules. But coaches and managers need to be more sensitive to the impact on another team.

It can be a difficult for a young player who is invited to move up to a new team. They can feel guilt or fear telling their coach they want to play under someone else on another team. This often is compounded by the fact they tend to be stronger players and are difficult to replace.

We all coach, play, and support the same club. We must be

mindful of what is in the best interests of ATSC, its coaches, and players. A phone call to a coach about switching teams may be a tough one to make, but a coach deserves such a call and we expect the player or the parents to make it.

It is important that a change allow a team time to find a suitable replacement. Spring try-outs and season's end are the best times. If the change comes near a season opener, it can be devastating to the team. It is inconsiderate besides.

Seldom does a pending move come as a surprise to the coach who is on the receiving end. It is important for that coach to begin discussions with the other coach. We owe it to one another and I will expect it of coaches from here on

out.

ATSC wants what is best for each player. Progression to higher division teams helps a player improve and furthers their development. Every team should encourage players to try out for a higher division team so that they can compete against stronger players and improve their game. It does a player little good to dominate at a certain level of experience and not move up where they will have to push harder to improve and compete. It's the only way a player can become a better player.

I know it can be hard for a coach to say goodbye to a player you've grown attached to as you've helped them to develop their talent. But not letting them go is a disservice

to someone you care about. It hinders their development, as well.

Coaches must not be so selfish as to assume their system and style is best for a player. The best players take a little bit from each coach to develop their game. This is how we will develop ATSC talent into the future.

Lack of communication among coaches can have a detrimental effect on the Club. It can cause a coach or player to look elsewhere. We do not want to lose valuable resources by inconsiderate treatment.

**NCSL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

NCSL game scores and team win/loss records for U9 and U10 will not be posted on the website. These age groups don't play results-oriented soccer. U10 win/loss records will be used in the Spring season to place teams in numbered divisions for the Fall U11 season. The Board asks coaches and parents to use the developmental seasons to practice respect and show deference to referees, and to model good sportsmanship for players.

A 2002-03 version of the NCSL

Rules and Procedures manual can be downloaded from the website. Please refer to the manual first with your questions.

It is an individual team's responsibility to keep track of points awarded to players when yellow or red cards are issued. Sit-outs must be served according to the rules. Failure to adhere to this rule can result in game forfeiture and a coach receiving a disciplinary sit-out.

*(cont'd from page 1)*

It is exciting that I will have the opportunity to help create an atmosphere in which young, "hungry" players can develop their games.

As a club, ATSC will offer many avenues for such players to improve. We will offer clinics for their coaches and we will provide clinics for the players. I am at work on a schedule and will provide you more information as we go along together.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly. You can reach me at (703) 868-8867 or grantwsmith@comcast.net.

I am excited about getting to know each coach and player in the Arlington Travel Soccer Club.

:Grant Smith, Director of Coaching

## TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

### U15B Assault

The Assault won a hard-fought "Battle of Arlington" to beat the **Scorpions** in the finals of the Premier Division of the Dulles Tournament in August. In the four-game series, the Assault allowed only one goal. The final match resulted in a 1-1 tie with the goal by *Jose Coronado* and an assist by *Nick Robinson*. Two overtimes resulted in no further score. PKs determined the winner.

The team won its second championship in two weeks at the PWSI Labor Day Tournament. Assault's defense again allowed only a single goal in the entire tournament. That became the determining factor in their championship.

The ODP Northern District Pool selected *Coronado*, *Robert Ivanovich* and *Jorge Ramirez*.

### U15B Scorpions

Competition in Gothenburg, Sweden was an early highlight

of the season. The Scorpions competed along with 1,200 teams in the Gothia Cup and won their first flight against three Swedish teams. They were defeated in the second round on a score of 2-1.

The Scorpions stayed at the Folunda School along with boy players from Spain, Scotland and England, and Icelandic and Swedish girl teams. Taking advantage of "the midnight sun," the Scorpions played friendly pick-up games late into the evening when they weren't otherwise training or playing.

### U14B United

The Division 3 U14 United tied the FPYC **Pumas** 1-1 in a game on September 22nd. *Gary Nash* scored with a header off *Johnny Cordova's* corner kick. United's forwards played well against the Puma's strong defense while *Erik Lopez* had an outstanding game at midfield and goalie *Chris Torres* made many saves in goal.

### U13G United

Arlington United won the Spirit Kick-Off Classic in August at Downingtown, PA. Competing in the "A" division, United was awarded the championship in a round-robin based on points accumulated. Tying their first game against Southhampton, PA's Sting (1-1) and beating the Harford, MD, Kicks (1-0) and West Mont, PA, Lazars, United played their final game against the Hokessing, DE, Frost who shared an identical 2-0-1 record, but trailed in points. The hard fought, well-played, physical game yielded a 4-1 victory and the tournament championship.

### U12B Titans

The Division III Titans made a strong start on the first day of the FYPC Labor Day Tournament beating a Division I team 1-0 and a Division IV 4-0. After four rounds, the Titans were the only undefeated among eight teams playing. They were

declared tournament champions when rain wiped out the second day's games.

Arlington's U12B Titans have completed two NCSL seasons without a single defeat. They placed first with a 9-0-0 record last spring and wrapped up the fall at 6-0-3. As a consequence they move up into Division II in spring 2003.

### U11B Legend

Arlington's Legend captured second place in the Prince William Labor Day tourney with a 2-1 record and a loss in the final game.

### MOVIN' ON UPI

The ATSC Board of Directors congratulates all teams for their perseverance through an extremely challenging fall season. Circumstances resulted in some teams able to practice only once or twice in the last five weeks of the season.

The following teams will move up a division in the spring:

**U19B Shadows** 2nd in NCSL Div. 1, **U16G Extreme** 2nd in WAGS Div. 2, **U15B Assault** 4th in NCSL Div. 1, **U15G Strikers** 2nd in WAGS Div. 4, **U14B United** 2nd in NCSL Div. 3, **U14B Alliance** 3rd in NCSL Div. 5 **U13B Warriors** 1st in NCSL Div. 5, **U12B Titans** 1st in NCSL Div. 3, **U12G Magic** 1st in ODSL Div. 3, and **U11B Legend** 3rd in NCSL Div. 5.



**Champions All — U13G United inside the 18 to celebrate their championship in the Spirit Kick-Off Classic.**

## SWEATY SOCCER DEBUTS AT GUNSTON—MARTA CAHILL

ATSC's first experiment with informal pick-up soccer got its start at Gunston MS, last summer. During four weeks, Arlington players arrived at the field and broke into full or small-sided teams to play for fun. High school aged players used the new synthetic turf field on Tuesdays while elementary and middle school players enjoyed a Thursday time slot.

Among the glowing comments from parents and coaches was this from a U11 coach. "I'm not sure how the turnout was for the older group, but we had at least 30 players every week, and close to 50 in two of the weeks. We played small sided matches exclusively with usually no more than 6 v 6, mixed girls and boys into coed teams, boys vs. girls, boys vs. boys,

and girls vs. girls. When the girls matched up against the boys, the girls usually won the matches."

Middle school play varied between half-field and full-field games. A parent wrote, "My 11 year-old was playing against boys who were older and more experienced, and she found it both enjoyable and valuable." A talented middle school player says he enjoyed Sweaty Soccer because he could experiment with different moves and pass the ball to other players so that they could score.

A team manager thought that the younger players learned about spacing and positioning from older players. "I only made one Sweaty Soccer night, but I thought it was amazing," says a coach. "The

facilities are amazing and the kids were having fun (not to mention it keeping in shape)!"

There was a problem with high school nights because many teams didn't get word of the event to their players. The first night was almost all girls while the subsequent three were primarily boys. One night when attendance was low, eleven travel players went up against a team of adults from the nearby community and acquitted themselves well.

One team used Sweaty Soccer as a way to try-out new players without having to field the entire team.

"I am a big fan of things like Sweaty Soccer because it gives the game back to the kids," testifies a coach who works with high school and elementary players. "They don't have to worry about what their coach thinks, or what Mom and Dad think. They just play for fun. This allows them to experiment with moves and tricks they would never try in games or at practice. I think it's important to foster this environment and limit adult involvement as much as possible."

Spread the word !

## Perspective

*Every weekend, at every game we see mistakes. To err is human, but it seems to me that we tend to feel bad only when it's our team's player or coach who makes the mistake and feel otherwise when it's the other guys. It's the same for referees' mistakes.*

*Anybody who watched the World Cup saw officials make mistakes. The U.S. avoided a penalty kick when a "hand ball" went uncalled. France lost a goal (and a game) when a ball was ruled out-of-bounds early. Major League Soccer refused to assign more games to a referee because of errors made in a DC United game.*

*It can happen at that level of play even with many years and thousands of games experience. Officials blow it, sometimes because they don't have benefit of slow-mo or it's just a "bad day."*

*Referees in any given match will almost certainly make mistakes. I usually find the referee makes significantly fewer mistakes than parents and fans think. Our perspective changes when it is our team or child involved. Don't believe me? Spend 10 or 15 minutes watching any game with fans of one team and then with the other. Both sides are likely to agree the referee made mistakes, but will disagree on which call or non-calls were the ones.*

:Paul Smith, Referee Chair

## GOT YOUR SOCCER CAR MAGNET?

You've probably seen the "Arlington Soccer" magnet on cars around the county. At \$5, the car magnet promotes Arlington soccer and raises money for our scholarship fund.

Team managers are a source for the magnets. They're also available from Marta Cahill (703-532-8360) and Phil Keating (703-237-9274). Soccer Kicks also has a supply on-hand.

The club is happy to sell the magnets in bulk to house team coaches and players.



## VYSA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR MILLER ADDRESSES ATSC

Gordon Miller, Virginia Youth Soccer Association technical director, says three important components contribute to a club's success and stresses that players, coaches, and parents need to work toward common goals and objectives.

While his October 7 remarks to the Arlington Travel Soccer Club focused on technical development, Miller stressed the importance of qualified and dedicated parental involvement in administrative and political matters.

He also noted some coaches prefer not to be bothered with policy matters. This is to their detriment because club philosophy and policy could be at odds with coaching styles or goals. Players, parents and coaches must work toward common goals and objectives for a club to succeed, he says.

Miller commented on the importance of small-side play to player development. More touches, more passes, and greater opportunity to learn ball control combine to provide more fun for players. The best technical expertise for players involves solid, fundamental foot skills. Solid technique compensates for lots of weakness, he claims.

Ball control, sharp passes, and character compensate when playing against bigger, faster teams, he asserts.

It is Miller's view that many teams scrimmage too much. It

is better to think about actions and performance that need improvement., then drill to bring about desired change.

There is internal tension for a coach who feels compelled to succeed (win) while ensuring players develop to the best of their ability. This pressure can be relieved if a club, rather than the team, pays coaches. While this can have negative impact on win/loss records in the short-term, over time the club develops stronger, more complete players who are better skilled and better able to handle the pressures of higher-level soccer, he believes.

Such an approach has its complications, but audience reaction to the suggestion indicated recognition of the importance of protecting coaches from being judged solely on a win/loss record.

Miller does not like the concept of players having set positions. Players and coaches develop comfort zones with one another and while a team may be more apt to win with players kept in specific positions, the players do not develop to their fullest potential. The focus should be on players reaching full potential by age 16 or 17, not when they are 10-12. An exception may be "goalie." Not every player should get a stint in the goalie box, but goalies should play other positions.

Miller believes A and B teams

should practice together as much as is possible.

There are pros and cons to tournament play, Miller says.

Too much tournament play can contribute to wear and tear on growing bodies. They can provide bonding for the team, however, and allow players to try different positions in non-league games.

Miller believes it is important for a club to have a Director of Coaching, one who is focused on player development. Player clinics, such as those the ATSC sponsored last year, are important because they expose players to different coaches and new ideas on ball control and passing.

Discussing how long a coach should remain with a team, he opined that two or three years together might be best, with a new coach continuing the learning process. A new coach is apt to challenge a player to further elevate his game and play a position that is different from where the player and the former coach were "comfortable." He also noted that some children respond better to certain personalities and are better served by exposure to different coaching styles.

Finally, Miller spoke of the importance of coaching courses and clinics that encourage coaches to pursue additional instruction rather

than relying upon their college and professional experience to provide them everything they need to know.

With regard to the Olympic Development Program (ODP), Miller said that while talent is important, the key in his book is "character." Character can win games that should have been lost, and its lack can come into play at the worst moment in a game. The

**"The keys to success for a player, coach, and club ."**

more intense the pressure, the more character counts. Consequently, Miller looks for players who show up on time, run and pick up cones at the end of practice, and play a position that is not a favorite as indicators of character.

## ATSC SPORTSMANSHIP AND CODES OF CONDUCT

Team managers distributed the ATSC Code of Conduct to coaches, parents, and players for their signatures this Fall. The Board hopes the Code is redundant and unnecessary, but with reports of out-of-control sidelines behavior in the news, signing the Code may keep such behavior from becoming an issue in Arlington.

The Code serves as a covenant among players, parents and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, and to maintain a cooperative attitude while upholding the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship.

**Demonstrating a positive attitude** means players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport.

Criticism of and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches, or fans undermines the purpose of the sport and encourages behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of the ATSC. We seek to provide Arlington youth the opportunity to play soccer at the highest level commensurate with individual ability, potential, and interest while emphasizing fair play and respect for all participants.

**Setting a good example** is intended to remind everyone associated with ATSC that they are accountable for their behavior both on and off the

field. Parents, coaches, and other adults should remember that youth learn by example. It is up to adults to set the example.

ATSC will not tolerate behavior that is detrimental to the sport, its participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: vulgarity; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats, or physical violence toward anyone before, during, or after a match; and taunting of opposing players, coaches, and parents.

*We require self-restraint by all participants, whether players or adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.*

**Maintaining good relationships** includes game officials, opponents, and members of our own team.

A **game official's** job is a difficult one. All referees are human and can make a mistake. Parents or players who believe that their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should *speak to their coach after the game*. Coaches should inform appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. Team managers should make reports through appropriate channels, including mail-in evaluations where available.

In accordance with FIFA laws,

verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection of the player, coach, or parent. Referees have authority to suspend play if a coach fails to control his players, parents, or team supporters. Referees are able to issue a yellow or a red card to a coach in response to inappropriate behavior by parents.

Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of **opposing players, coaches, and their fans** at all times. Sportmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment that should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of soccer is undermined. We should not allow ourselves to be drawn down to the level of those who do not share our values.

A successful **team** resembles a family where members put their own needs behind those of the greater good. Jealousies and rivalries are inevitable on a team, but great care must be taken not to undermine a coach's authority. Parental coaching from the sidelines is not appropriate in travel soccer.

We all signed the ATSC Code of Conduct. What is it? What is its intent?

## ARLINGTON TRAVEL SOCCER CLUB

1525 N 1 KENTUCKY ST  
ARLINGTON VA 22205

WWW.ATSC-VA.COM

## MEET THE ATSC PLAYERS' REPS

Three high school students have been selected to serve as player representatives on the Board of Directors. The ATSC constitution, as revised in March 2002, provides for the positions to be filled by appointment of the Board. The players' representatives enjoy full participation and voting rights on the Board.

**Ian Handerhan** is the Boys Player Representative. He's played in the ATSC for five years, first on the Arlington Thunder and currently on the U17 Strikers (NCSL Division 2). He plays soccer, golf and lacrosse for Gonzaga High School. Ian is a certified referee and assistant coach for a Potomac Kiwanis house team. He is a Boy Scout, plays in the Gonzaga band, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

**Anna Raven-Hansen** is a Co-Girls Player Representative. She has played for the U19 Storm (WAGS Division 2) since third grade and plays soccer for Georgetown Day School. She is very involved in the Diversity Connections club at Georgetown Day and has worked as a lifeguard at Donaldson Run pool.

**Dana Mueller** is the other Co-Girls Player Representative. She is currently a member of the U19 Storm and previously played for the Arlington Explosion. She plays soccer for Sidwell Friends and has been an referee for 4 1/2 years. She volunteers at ATSC tryouts and clinics. Dana is president of the Sidwell Friends Outing Club and photography editor for the yearbook, does technical work on school theatrical productions, and volunteers as a translator at the Arlington Free Clinic.

## ATSC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**President** Phil Keating 703-237-9274 philipkeating@comcast.net

**Girls Commissioner** Celeste Szewczyk 703-525-9057  
73140.720@compuserve.com

**Boys Commissioner** Jack O'Toole 703-241-0616 jackotoole@aol.com

**Secretary** Andrew Rude 703-527-2314 Andrew.robin@verizon.net

**Treasurer** Ron Greenhalgh 703-241-0555 rkg0@aol.com

**Try-outs Chair** Paula Pettavino 703-527-0223 pjpettavino@aol.com

**Girls Coach Rep** Jerry Ellison 703-841-4653 supermanjer@yahoo.com

**Boys Coach Rep** Matt Barlow 7-3-533-2422 oppong@rocketmail.com

**Girls Player Co-Representatives** Anna Raven-Hansen msangela@aol.com and  
Dana Mueller dmueller03@sidwell.edu

**Boys Player Representative** Ian Handerhan laxalot217@aol.com

**Member at Large (Referees)** Paul Smith 703-528-2141 paul.smith@ost.dot.  
gov & psmithref@aol.com

**Executive Director** Marta Cahill 703-532-8360 marta@comcast.net

**Director of Coaching** Grant Smith 703-868-8867 grantwsmith@comcast.net

**NCSL Club Rep** Lucy Jennings 703-237-8736 jennings555@comcast.net

**ODSL Club Rep** Dawn Dekker 703-525-8484 arlingtonvipers@aol.com

**Fields & Equipment** Les Crane 703-841-1665 lescrane@mitre.org

**Fundraising** (Volunteer needed)

**Scholarships** Pat Cardillo 703-531-0992 pcardillo@verizon.net

**Publicity** Randy Custer 703-525-2369 rancus@aol.com

**Uniforms** Hilary Philips 703-276-0877 pgphgp@erols.com

**DC United Liaison** Kim Beals 703-534-9846 lacreme@aol.com

**Newsletter** Ned Leonard 703-538-5759 ned@westernfuels.org

**Website Design** Kevin Johnson Kevin@kj-design.com

**Klurfeld Travel Scholarship Fund** c/o Arlington Community Foundation, 2525  
Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201 arlcf@erols.com