

West Windsor Plainsboro Soccer Association

Annual Report



President's Report (David Westbrook)

The Association has had another successful year of soccer. We had 1,612 players enjoy our fall recreational program, and 442 players enjoy our travel soccer program for a total of 2,054 players. In addition, 248 teams participated in our 8th Annual Sunburst tournament.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to this successful year, especially:

- Sarnoff Corporation, West Windsor Plainsboro Board of Education, and the Plainsboro and West Windsor townships for allowing us to use their fields
- The West Windsor and Plainsboro Recreational and Facilities Departments for lining and maintaining the soccer fields
- The 435 volunteer coaches and assistant coaches for your superb efforts in coaching the players and making sure they had fun at all those games and practices
- The 170 team parents that arranged the all important snacks and helped the coaches
- The parents for driving the players back and forth to games and practices
- The players who thoroughly enjoyed playing soccer
- Lastly, the 31 Directors and League Managers who helped make it all happen

Players By Home Address	
West Windsor	1,361
Plainsboro	500
Cranbury	97
Princeton	75
Other	21
Total	2,054

Game Fields By Location	
Sarnoff Corporation	14
West Windsor Township	11
Plainsboro Township	7
Board of Education	5

Games and Practices Held Each Fall Week	
Recreational Games	65
Travel Games	38
Weekend Practices	66
Weeknight Practices	150

Our online registration system continues to make the registration process easier to handle. We only had to capture mail-in registration forms for 465 players and feel that we will be able to reduce this further next year. Late registrations continued to cause problems with forming teams and setting schedules. This year we had 316 players register late despite the late fee charged.

This year we started to fully utilize our email distribution system, and it has significantly improved our ability to communicate quickly at no cost with the majority of our families and players. We also moved to a paid hosting service for our website which has significantly improved the uptime and reliability of our website.

Fund Raising and Sponsors (Eva Schroeder)

This year we had 34 teams sponsored by 31 sponsors, raising a total of \$9,500. We would like to thank all of the sponsors for their generous support, and in appreciation of their support have provided each sponsor with a plaque and team photograph of their sponsored team.

Equipment (Larry White)

We tried new uniforms with some of our leagues and they were a big success. We received many compliments from players and parents on the great look and feel of the new uniforms, and a few complaints from players in leagues that did not have the new uniforms. If the price on this new style of uniform remains price competitive with our old style uniforms we will consider changing all of the older leagues to the new uniforms.

We have continued to have issues with the sizes of uniforms, and will be working with our suppliers to ensure that the actual size of the uniform is more appropriate.

Facilities (Erik Perry)

The availability of lighted fields for weeknight practices continues to be an issue. This year was worse than normal because Plainsboro Community Park was not available due to the township refurbishing the fields. To alleviate this we acquired two additional portable light towers that were used at the Zaitz fields.

To improve the safety of the Zaitz parking lot the Association arranged the installation of lights in the parking lot and agreed to pay the monthly electricity cost. We would like to thank Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh and Ken Jacobs of the West Windsor Recreational Department who obtained the necessary permission and expedited the process that allowed us to install these parking lot lights. In addition we would like to thank PSE&G who donated and installed the poles and lights.

Looking forward we will be working with West Windsor Township to develop additional soccer fields in a designated park located on Meadow Road.

I would like the Association to consider purchasing a slit seeder (\$7,200) that can be used to over-seed the fields at Zaitz, Conover and West Windsor Community Park. The Township only has a core aerator and a drop seeder, and that combination results in tufts of grass wherever a core is punched and seed then happens to fall in (the condition of the Zaitz turf is an excellent example of this). A slit seeder would cut continuous slots in the soil every few inches and seed would be placed directly into the slots. Making two passes with a slit seeder, perpendicular to each other would result in a much more uniform and denser weave of new grass. This is what we need to have done at least once a year to all of the fields to improve them. Without this tool we can expect to see the same field conditions year after year.

Our 2002 Sponsors

1st Constitution Bank
Bagel Street Grill
Boyle Family Foundation (2 teams)
Brace Place
Century 21 - Rich Abrams & Associates
Chicago Title Fire
Collegiate Sealers Inc.
Craft Cleaners
Cranbury Golf Course
Dick's Sporting Goods
Ellsworth's
Great Clips for Hair
Grovers Mill Co
Joan Eisenberg, Re Max
Lawrence Lexus
McCaffrey's
Meadows Opticians
Mercer Human Resource Consulting
Mr Handyman
Rane's Exclusively Yours Dental
Renaissance Computer
RenalTech
Rubin, Ehrlich & Buckley Sarnoff
Shades of Summer
Sharbell Development
Solar Planet Tanning
The Dance Corner
The Mailroom
Tradition Capital Management (3 teams)
Wegmans

Erik will be retiring from his position with the Association this year and we would like to thank him for his years of hard work on behalf of the Association.

Finance (Pat Trombetta)

Merchandise (Chris Miles and Linda Seghers)

We suggest that next year we set a very firm end-date for pre-orders, and direct people after that date to the merchandise available on Picture Day. We'll order more merchandise for Picture Day than we do now if that suggestion is adopted. Pre-orders were almost double of what they were last year.

Picture Day and Trophies (Alyssa Weinberger)

Picture day went very smoothly with 147 teams, including 17 travel teams, coming through for team and individual pictures. Including the travel teams, this amounted to approximately 1730 players plus their coaches having photos taken over the course of the day. All Sport Photo did such a great job keeping the teams moving that we were never more than 10-15 minutes behind schedule, and finished the day on time. To my knowledge there were only a handful of errors in picture orders which were addressed quickly by All Sport customer service representatives.

The Association provided a free team photo to all players as well as trophies to all recreational players.

I would like to thank All Sport Photo for providing outstanding service to the Association as well as the many volunteers who helped out on picture day.

Player and Coach Development (Cassandra Cohen)

One of the Association's goals is to ensure that our children and coaches obtain the best possible soccer training. This fall we offered several opportunities to help meet these goals. In August and September we hosted three coaches' clinics which were very well attended. One was led by UK Elite, one by MLS Soccer Camps, and the third by WWPSA board members. In addition, 48 coaches and assistant coaches attended the Rutgers' Safety Course.

UK Elite provided team training on Saturday mornings for our younger leagues. The trainers visited each team once, providing an hour of training. In the process of training our children, coaches picked up drills and games that they were able to use in their own training sessions.

Our optional Monday evening Training for Recreational Players with UK Elite was very successful. In fact, attendance was far greater than we had anticipated, leading us to hire additional trainers. Feedback from children and parents alike was very positive. All around, I think it was a huge success!

Next year, we plan to continue with the programs offered this year and are considering expanding the Training for Recreational Players with UK Elite. In addition, we will be hosting an F License Course for coaches sometime during the summer. Check our web page for updates.

Recreational Program (League Managers)

Our fall recreational program fielded 130 teams this year ranging from Kindergarten to Senior teams. From all accounts the players thoroughly enjoyed the program and both they and the coaches were disappointed that games were affected by rain on 3 weekends.

We continue to have difficulty with balancing teams due to special requests to play with a certain coach or another player and late registrations and will be considering how to address this for next year's season.

By October everyone was dribbling, passing, shooting, scoring and overall, having a lot of fun playing this great game. Our heartiest appreciation goes to our hardworking coaches for their dedication, taking the time to lead practices, and for teaching both soccer skills and teamwork to their players. Thanks also to the parents who came to the games, cheered on their teams, and exhibited very good sportsmanship at each match. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Referees (Rick Engel)

We have supplied referees for 33 games each Saturday, with 53 different people having refereed this year. The conduct of the coaches and parents has been almost universally exemplary, with only a handful of incidents between coaches or parents and referees. I thank them for their excellent conduct, and invite any suggestions for improvement for next season.

We will in conjunction with the New Jersey State Referee Office offer a 20 hour licensing course for new referees that will be taught over 3 days - Saturday, January 25, 2003 - 8:30 to 5 pm; Sunday, January 26, 2003 - 8:30 to 5 pm; and Monday night January 27, 2003. The exact location within West Windsor or Plainsboro will be provided at a later date. Please contact Rick if you are interested in attending.

Travel Program (Scott Borsack)