West Windsor Plainsboro Soccer Association

2005 Annual Meeting Report
(Presented on November 22, 2005)

President’s Report (David Westbrook)

WWPSA continues to see significant participation in its programs with 2,453 individual players participating in its various programs during 2005. This year we added a Pre-K program at the same time on Saturday as our other programs so that the entire family could play soccer together. The Sunburst Tournament attracted 191 travel teams this year and we would like to thank Quaker Bridge Mall for their sponsorship of the tournament.

I would like to thank all the players, parents, coaches, board members and many volunteers for all your time and efforts. Without you, we could not offer such a wide range of programs that continue to make a significant impact on our community. Special thanks to Plainsboro Township, Sarnoff Corporation, West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education, and West Windsor Township for the use of fields and all the work they do in preparing the fields for our use.

With our growth, the quality of the fields and the quantity of well-lit fields continues to be a limiting factor for all our programs. To address this we are in discussion with West Windsor Township about an opportunity to develop a first class soccer complex at Duck Pond Park and are applying for a grant from the US Soccer Foundation to help fund the installation of an artificial turf field at this location. To make this dream come true, WWPSA will need to embark on a major fund raising campaign to raise $2 million to fund this complex.

Looking into the future, with the depth of players and the resources available to WWPSA, we have the opportunity to become a truly great soccer club. For this to become a reality, we need to come together as one club focused on the one thing that really matters – Giving each player an opportunity to develop to their full potential as soccer players and athletes. If this simple sentence guides all of our decisions and actions, we will soon become a great soccer club where each player can succeed.
President’s Report (continued)

I think the Board needs to critically reassess everything WWPSA does with this single focus in mind. No doubt, changes will need to be made, some will probably not be easy, and they must be done in a way that does not adversely affect existing teams but that positions our up and coming players to succeed. I look forward to the day when WWPSA players are recruited by colleges and then go on to play in the Olympics, and the World Cup because of the foundation we gave them.

Finance (Pat Trombetta)

The Association remains in good financial position. We will obviously need to put forth a strong fundraising campaign in order to go forward with the proposed Duck Pond development.

Our year to date revenues for all programs is approximately $359,000. Total expenses and capital expenditures for the first ten months of 2005 were $249,000. There are still a number of expenses that need to be finalized and paid by the end of the year.

In addition, the 2005 contribution to the Capital Development Fund needs to be calculated and transferred by 12/31/05.

Detailed financial statements will be available at the meeting.

Programs

Adult Wasps Team (Steve Henderson)

The Wasps finished their first season in third position, behind 2 very strong teams, after winning their third place play-off 4:2 in extra time (2:2 after 90 minutes). The Wasps participate in the Mercer County Adult Men’s Soccer League (MCAMSL). The MCAMSL thanks WWPSA for use of Zaitz Park to allow for the league play-off games during May/June 2005. We had hoped to gain enough interest from other adults players within WWPSA community to form another team to join the MCAMSL but received few responses to the invitation. We hope to get that second team together for the season starting Spring 2006. MCAMSL was also able to reach agreement with Mercer County Community Park for use of fields throughout the season, which starts in Fall and is completed in the following Spring of each year. For more information on the league and its teams, visit www.mercermensoccer.net.

Adult Recreational (David Boate)

The WWPSA Adult Recreational program had both a successful spring and fall program in 2005. Games were played at Zaitz Park. Both sessions had six teams with approximately 16 players on each team. Games are small sided with 8 x 8 players including Goal Keepers.

The Adult Recreational program offers a friendly casual league that promotes adult sports, health, and exercise. It also provides an opportunity for youth league coaches and referees to play in an organized league to work on their own skills, tactics, and techniques that they can apply to their youth teams. Games were scheduled late Saturday afternoons to allow coaches to play without impacting their recreational or travel team schedules.

There has been much interested by the Adult Recreational players to continue the league in both the spring and fall of 2006.

Adult pick-up games were also held during the summer of 2005 on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with the WWPSA Youth Pick-up program. Many adult players brought their children to and played in the Adult game while their children played in Youth games.

Sunburst Tournament (Paul Hase)

Sunburst 2005 was successfully completed despite another close call with the weather, but clearing skies and warm temperatures finally smiled upon us as the weekend progressed. In all, 382 games were played on 22 fields (15 FS and 7 SS) located in Mercer County Park.
In total, 191 teams competed, 66 U08 – U10 and 125 U11 – U16. With 11 U08 – U10 and 20 U11 - U16 WWPSA teams, we had 55 and 105 teams respectively from other clubs. Of the 23 age/gender flights, WWPSA teams finished 1st in six and 2nd in three.

Two factors led to the tournament being smaller than in the past: fewer fields at MCP on which to play and the need to play the tournament on the last regular season weekend for several leagues (e.g., MNJYSA, MOSA). Yet we were as profitable as or more so than the past few years because, for the first time in quite awhile, we had a major corporate sponsor, Quaker Bridge Mall.

Sunburst 2006 is scheduled for June 3 and 4, 2006. The tournament will once again be held in Mercer County Park. The tournament organizational meeting to fill all the key directors' positions will be held on December 5th at 8pm in the Millstone River School cafeteria. A kickoff meeting will then be held in January. Specific dates and locations for the kickoff meetings will be announced soon.

Youth Recreational (Bill Kramer and rec. league managers)

2005 was a very good year, and we have learned several things that will make 2006 even better.

WWPSA Recreation had programs in the Spring, Summer, and Fall seasons. Feedback on the format for Spring and Summer has been very positive, and we plan to offer each one again in 2006. We also introduced an additional Saturday Fall program for Pre-K children administered by UK Elite. We will make some administrative changes, but we expect to offer the program again in 2006.

The largest of our programs is the Fall season. This year we had 1600 players on 144 teams in 15 leagues for boys or girls ranging from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. We introduced the option for parents of 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys to allow their children to either play “up” in the Senior League or “down” in the intermediate league. The choice proved very popular as 60% of the Girls and 33% of the Boys chose to play down. We plan to continue this feature in 2006. The vast majority of all of our players have had a great year, learned a lot about soccer, and, hopefully, most of them will want to return in 2006.

We had some bumps along the way, too. Our League Managers were asked to turn raw data into balanced teams in only 2 weeks time in August (something we will work hard not to repeat next year). In the first year of its existence, the Discipline and Grievance Committee had various grievances regarding the Recreation program. We were fortunate that the committee was formed in advance of these disputes. Speaking of “bumps,” our players had their fair share of injuries, although thankfully none more serious than a broken bone or two. Lastly, Zaitz Field was invaded by construction.

We have things to work on. With the sheer number of players and teams in both Recreation and Travel comes a greater need for quality fields. Another challenge is to do our utmost to properly balance teams within leagues to provide a more competitive environment for all of our players, and in response we have created a better system for creating, capturing and using player evaluations by coaches. At press time, we have already accepted and stored evaluations for 1100 of our 1600 players, and ask any coach that has not yet done so to complete his or her team’s evaluations as soon as possible. The evaluations are used in an effort to create balanced teams in each successive year. To address the difficulty of creating sufficiently balanced teams during the summer months, we plan on moving the registration dates earlier, so you should expect to be prompted to register your children in the spring next year, not the summer. We will look to make additional changes that make sense to achieve this goal.

This was the first year of having a specific WWPSA officer to oversee the recreation program, and while there was a distinct learning curve, it seemed to go relatively well. It has been helpful to have someone focused is the
recreational program and giving the League Managers a dedicated presence.

We have had other significant changes in some of our leagues. In the Kindergarten and 1st Grade leagues, we have gone to a “dual-mini” field and game layout where each team plays two games of 3 v 3 simultaneously. We are considering changing this next year to have smaller teams play either 3 v 3 or 4 v 4. In all of our leagues below Intermediate, as a policy matter, we have made a decision to go away from keeping players together on the same team for the purpose of giving players exposure to different coaching methods and styles. We have fostered more camaraderie among our League Managers to be able to share experience, ideas and support and hope to do an even better job of this in 2006.

I’d like to take this opportunity to address our constituents.

To our 1,600 players: “CONGRATULATIONS ON A TERRIFIC YEAR. WIN, LOSE OR DRAW, YOU’VE DONE A GREAT JOB.” Above all else, I hope you had fun this year and that you want to come back next year.

To our hundreds of volunteer coaches, league managers, board members, and all other volunteers: “THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULD HAVE NO PROGRAM AT ALL.” Finding willing and able volunteers continues to be our greatest single need.

To all of our players’ parents: “THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN’S INTEREST IN SOCCER.” We care what you think. You recently received an e-mail with a link to a survey regarding your family’s experience with us this year. The only way for us to address your concerns is to make sure we understand what they are. If you wish to speak to someone directly, please e-mail me and I’ll be happy to discuss just about any issues with you personally.

In 2006, our most difficult task will be to find enough head coaches, assistant coaches, and league managers. Ask just about any coach in our system, and you’ll find out how rewarding it is to participate on the field with your child. It’s your chance to be, in no small respect, a real hero to someone very important at home.

In closing, we really have had a terrific year, significant change, lots of players having a great time. With your help, we can and will provide a better experience next year. Come join us!

Youth Travel (Howard Shemitz)

The travel organization currently has 34 teams that are competing on various levels. It remains a priority to make available an environment that allows a child to play competitive soccer at a level he or she is comfortable with. If enough players are available within the allowed amount of players per team as regulated by the, the travel organization will form a team for those interested players. In most cases, each age group has a premier team and one or two club teams for both boys and girls. At current, we have teams rostered in the following leagues:

MNJYSA- 23 teams
SJSL- 3 teams
JAGS- 3 teams
MAPS- 5 teams

The facilities available to the travel organization continues to plague the program. The amount of fields and conditions of playing surface are sub-par to dangerous and remain a liability for the players who depend on them. The program is being stifled due to the availability of facilities and prohibits the possibility of further growth. We would like to attract high level events to help promote soccer in WWPSA but are unable to at the current time. We would like to invite the Wildcats back to hold training sessions with our kids but the Wildcat players were told the field conditions are too dangerous and they could risk injury. For players who depend on soccer for their livelihood, this becomes a serious issue.

The travel program continues to be a self-help group within WWPSA as we are working with the township to install permanent lights at Zaitz. We are hoping to have final permission by the first
quarter of 2006. Although the aspects of travel soccer are vast and various due to the nature of our program, we continue to provide a successful venue for children who are interested in playing competitive soccer.

**Other**

**Background Checks (Bernadine Williams)**

Report not filed at this time.

**Development (Robin Dean)**

The VP of Development is responsible to coordinate all training and development offered to players, coaches, and referees through WWPSA programs. He/she is also responsible to obtain the best quality and value from professional training organizations by coordinating the needs of all WWPSA programs.

For 2005, WWPSA development activities included the following:

**New Jersey Youth Soccer Coaching Schools**

WWPSA hosted several Coaching Schools offering the "F", "E" and "D" licenses. With this progressive program, WWPSA has established itself as one of the premier locations for coaching licenses in central New Jersey and has been selected to be the central-NJ location for the annual D-license course. This will enable WWPSA coaches to have the opportunity to advance their coaching education in a convenient and familiar setting. In 2005, we hosted the following courses:

**F-License (August):** 42 coaches completed this 9-hour course that includes classroom and field sessions. This course focuses on methods used in teaching the techniques of dribbling shooting, passing and receiving, heading, defending and goalkeeping. Focus is on fun, repetition and the use of small-sided games. This course is required for all travel coaches but is also extremely useful for recreation coaches.

**E-License (January):** This 18-hour course is devoted to refining players' technical abilities under game conditions. Basic tactics are taught at individual and small group levels as well as basic principles of attack and defense. Several WWPSA coaches earned their E-license this year.

**D-License (July):** 40 coaches including several from WWPSA participated in this 36-hours course held over two weekends in August. This course aims to stimulate game situations for individuals and teams to solve. Individual and group tactics are addressed through the concepts of principles of play, as well as systems and styles of play. Methods used to teach tactics, fitness and technique are addressed. Candidates must pass 3 written exams and 2 practical field exams. Two WWPSA coaches earned the National D-License certificate.

**American Red Cross Sports Safety Training Course (March)**

WWPSA hosted this course for the first time. Participants learned the principles of First Aid, Adult and Child CPR, safety responsibilities, injury prevention and response. 8 coaches completed this 10-hour course.

**Rutger's S.A.F.E.T.Y. Clinic (September)**

In 1986, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to pass legislation that protects volunteer athletic coaches, managers, and officials from lawsuits. Commonly referred to as the "Little League Law", this legislation extends partial civil immunity to volunteers who have attended a "safety orientation and training skills program.” The Rutger's program helps coaches minimize the risk of injury to young athletes, provides information about fundamental coaching concepts that enhances volunteer coaches' effectiveness and protects volunteer coaches from civil lawsuits. The Clinic was attended by 29 coaches.

**Summer Coaches Clinics (August)**

WWPSA arranged for 3 coaching clinics in August open to all WWPSA coaches - recreational and travel - to help prepare for the 2005 Fall
soccer season. While successful, clinics were sparsely attended this year and a new format will be explored for 2006.

**K & 1st Clinic (September)**

An evening clinic designed for coaches of younger players attracted more than 30 coaches. Basic principles of coaching younger players were reviewed. Coaches participated in a series of activities suitable for our youngest players. This format proved successful and will be expanded in 2006.

**Rec. Spring Group Training (April-June)**

In its second year, the Spring Rec. program continued to grow with approximately 400 players from K - 8th Grades. Volunteer coaches managed Saturday pick-up games while Wednesday evening sessions featured group training by UK Elite. Three consecutive evening sessions beginning at 4.30 and ending at 8pm proved to be very popular. A pre-K program was also hosted on Saturdays by UK Elite trainers to coincide with the pick-up sessions. These new programs were introduced to provide an alternative recreational activity for our players during the Spring season. WWPSA is seeking a volunteer to manage this program in 2006.

**Rec. Fall Group Training (September-November)**

Once again, all Recreational players were provided with the opportunity to participate in optional group training sessions hosted by professional trainers from UK Elite and held every Monday in Plainsboro and Wednesday in West Windsor. Later sessions include specialized goalkeeper training.

**Tactical and Positional Training - Travel (Spring & Fall)**

The Travel program organized specialized training sessions in both Spring and Fall seasons (see Travel report).

**Referee Certification (January)**

Once a year, WWPSA hosts a referee certification course (see Referee report).

**Facilities (Girish Ananthashankaran)**

As in previous years, developing, maintaining, and upgrading facilities to ensure a good, playable and safe environment for games and practices has been quite a challenge. A new facilities committee consisting of 6 volunteers was formed during the spring of 2005 with a mission to identify, prioritize and pursue facilities development and maintenance. A facilities vision for the association was developed which broadly classified projects/initiatives into Development work for the long term and Maintenance upkeep work for the near term.

**Development:**

The facilities committee has actively pursued two specific development projects with the township of West Windsor during this year:

- **Duck Pond Park –** The proposed facilities at DPP include the potential of developing 5 soccer fields. This project, upon fruition, will boost the facilities inventory in terms of good quality, playable soccer fields for the association and provide relief from the various issues due to scheduling, availability of fields that are currently being faced. A draft agreement that focuses on the allocation of responsibilities between township and WWPSA and highlights the exclusivity of usage of these facilities is currently under discussion. We hope to finalize the agreement with the Township and progress this project to the mutual approval of the Board and the township so that the facilities could be made available as soon as possible for our players.

- **Permanent Lighting and irrigation at Zaitz:**

  Lighting at Zaitz, which serves as our “workhorse” set of fields for games and practice has been an issue for a long time. The facilities committee has approached the township showing our inclination to arrange for permanent lighting for these fields.
Some preliminary costs from lighting vendors have also been obtained to provide a budgetary estimate. We are in dialogue with the township to obtain final site plans of the park so that a conceptual set of drawings can be produced for presentation to the township for approval and to initiate outreach to the local community for information and support. Already, members of the committee have initiated talks with the local communities in and around Zaitz park to affirm their support. We hope to see this project approved and get the lights installed before the next Fall 2006. At the same time, we are also planning on providing an infrastructure to ensure irrigation for the fields at Zaitz Park.

Maintenance upkeep, procurement:
In order to maintain the facilities in a state of reasonable readiness for safe play and practice, we have taken steps as below:

We have entered into a contract for chemical treatment on an annual basis for the upkeep of the turf at all our facilities at Zaitz, Conover, WWCP and this has resulted in considerable visible improvement in the quality of the playing fields.

We have procured equipment storage containers for Conover and Zaitz to localize our inventory closer to the fields for safer, protected storage and easier field set up implementation. In accordance to township guidelines, we have already ordered a storage shed for Plainsboro Community Park and hope to procure a similar one for WWCP.

In order to facilitate short term lighting, we have had to procure additional portable lights for Zaitz to accommodate safer playing facilities during practice sessions. The existing portable lights have also been serviced. Although the portable lights are not the easiest of equipment to maintain, we have had to resort to such interim solutions until permanent lighting at Zaitz is a reality.

Upkeep of inventory (goals, nets) has been initiated with the help of volunteers but a lot more needs to be done and replenishment of goals and nets has to be taken up as a priority in the immediate term.

Facilities to function in any form for this association needs all the support from volunteers. Parent volunteers, Board member volunteers, and committee members have played a stellar role in helping to progress the plans over the last year and we continue to look forward to their support over the next year.

Equipment (Larry White)
All of our recreation league uniforms were purchased from SCORE American Soccer. The sizing of our uniforms was made smaller for most of the younger leagues to provide a better match for our players. An independent shipper was found this year that reduced our uniform shipping costs by 50%. SCORE provides us with gifts for purchasing uniforms from them. This year most our equipment bags, disks, goalie gloves and hand pumps were provided free of charge. We also received a discounted price on our first aid kit purchase. A new item was added to the equipment bag, first aid kits. We continue to provide in most equipment bags, three soccer balls, cones, disks, goalie gloves, goalie jersey, pinnies, clipboard, hand pump, whistle, ACE bandage, and ice packs. Two corner flags are also given each team, 3rd grade and above. Sports Junction continues to letter all of our sponsorship jerseys. They also provided the 434 T-shirts for our spring rec. program. Equipment bags were also prepared for the spring rec. program. Complete uniforms were supplied to the adult soccer team and equipment bags were made up for the new travel teams. 1662 uniforms and 426 coaches’ jerseys were distributed to 142 fall recreation league teams this past year. Volunteers helped to assemble equipment bags in August and to sort and inventory returned equipment in November. Old T-shirts, shorts, and socks were sold at the merchandise sales on team photo day.

Information Technology (David Westbrook)
Our website continues to be the main tool for communicating with families and registering players. This year we added an online field
scheduling and evaluation tool to assist in these areas.

**Merchandise (Nina Nobile)**

This year we purchased:

- 50 Skorrpis=$476.47
- 150 Adidas Shorts=$1,725
- 320 pairs of assorted soccer socks purchased for a cost of $2,907
- Two last minute jacket orders with names=$99.00
- 500 magnets=$1,250

We had a total of $6,457.47 in invoices. Less 1 refused jacket return=($45.00)=$6,502.47 (debt)

We took in receipts of

- $2,629 from online purchases
- $2,505 taken in on picture day
- Additional sales following picture day from sales on the fields=$509

Total = $5,134 (income)

Leaves us with a negative $1,368.47 of which we have much additional stock in inventory.

We have in inventory:

- 37 Skorrpis
- 6 pairs of gloves
- 4 soccer blankets
- 35 earwarmers
- 100 + adidas shorts (awaiting help for exact counts)
- 21 hoody sweatshirts (10 youth & 11 adult)
- 27 pairs of girls sweatpants (12 Adult & 15 Youth)
- 250+ pairs of soccer socks (awaiting help for exact counts)
- 350+ magnets (awaiting help for exact counts)

**Nominating Committee (Scott Borsack)**

In keeping with the responsibility entrusted to the nominating committee of the WWPSA, we offer the following as the slate of officers and directors for consideration at the 2005 Annual Meeting:

- Pres – David Westbrook
- VP Finance – Pat Trombetta
- VP Rec – Bill Kramer
- VP Travel – Howard Shemitz
- VP Facilities – Earl Deamond
- Sec – Randie Brazel
- At Large: Ken Matthews
  - Josette Simon
  - Steve Per
  - Steve Henderson
  - Justin Stein
  - Marc Herold
  - Larry White

**Picture Day & Trophies (Alyssa Weinberger)**

Picture Day stayed largely on schedule this year, finishing up on time at 2:15pm. WWPSA would like to thank the volunteers for helping out throughout the day. Without them, there is no way the day could run as smoothly as it does. We did have a few glitches (including a power outage that we worked around, and one of the two scheduled photographers that had to scramble to fill another spot for All Sport before he could get to our shoot), but thanks to the photographers, All Sport Photo, these had minimal impact on getting the photos taken on time. Their professionalism has continued to make our photo day a success, and we thank them!

For future photo days, we would like to mention that it is important to communicate with the photo coordinator when teams are unable to come for their scheduled photo shoot. In particular, we work hard to accommodate all teams in getting their photos scheduled at a time that is convenient for them. This year, there were two teams that were unable to make their appointed time. One of them did tell us that they would be unable to be there, and we worked the schedule around that change. Thank you to them. However, another team, that had requested and been granted a morning slot that was requested by multiple teams, did not come for their photo, and did not inform that they would not be able to make it. This time might have been
offered up to another team who wanted it, had we known they would not be coming.

Once again this year, we had a large number of players that did not arrive on time for their photos. When possible, we held the team and put others ahead of them to allow more time for them to get there. We don't know whether this was a function of tight times between games and the photo time, but next year, the new coordinator, and the league managers should re-emphasize the importance of having players there 15 minutes early. Many teams were still scrambling to get order forms and team envelopes completed, as the photographer will not do their shoot until that is done. This is what the 15 minute lead time is for. For those people/teams, and there were many, that did have everything done in advance and were ready on time for their photos, we thank you!!

On a more positive note, this year, for the first time, we had Pre-K teams photographed. They were very well-behaved and the photographers loved having them. My only suggestion for improving the process with them is to have all of the Pre-Ks come at the same time. They need a little extra time and some special attention and it might be better for them, as well as for the overall schedule to have them scheduled at times that are back to back, rather than intersperse them throughout the day. The photographer suggests having them early in the day so that the children are rested. But all in all, this went well.

I've enjoyed working with everyone over the past 4 seasons to manage photo day. Thank you to everyone that has helped coordinate these activities, including David Westbrook, our League President, all of the League Managers and Coaches, and of course our volunteers.

**Referees (Chris Hazen and George Pangalos)**

Report not filed at this time.

**Registration (Andre Maglione)**

As stated in the President’s report the registration system and process moved through over 2,400 individual players, supported numerous License programs, and processed approximately 23 Sponsor donations, all with very few technical glitches. The electronic registration process, by far is the most efficient means of supporting efficiencies in the program and the continued support to promote the system on www.wwpsa.org is essential in reducing registration errors and to improve processing. In the ways of improvement, it was suggested that we separate the options listed in the registration system by categorizing the selections so that fewer errors are made by parents in the registration process.

**Scholarships (David Westbrook)**

Each year the West Windsor Plainsboro Soccer Association awards scholarships to graduating seniors who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association, soccer and the community. Congratulations to Gregory Kelley, David Vogel, Leah Sachs, and Michael Mandell who were our 2005 Scholarship Recipients.

**Sponsors / Fund Raising (Evamarie Schroeder)**

This year there were 23 paid sponsored teams. In addition, there was 1 free sponsorship given to Sarnoff Corp. for the continuous use of their fields. The sponsors fees along with donations which included a sizable private donation raised just over $8,000. Thank you to all our Sponsors and those who donated money with a special thanks to the Boyle Family Foundation, Black Bear Lake Camp, which sponsored three teams, and Mr. Handyman, which sponsored two teams.

On a whole, sponsorships were lower than average this year. Several companies inquired on a rate reduction due to their size but based on a decision by the Board, this proposal was vetoed.

Quaker Bridge Mall sponsored the Sunburst Tournament this year donating $10,000 as well as handing out coupons and gift bags to teams that participated in the tournament.
Appendix A: Comments / Questions Received