

1st Annual Report

Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association

January 26, 1985

One year ago almost to the day, January 26th 1984 we began our first “formal” meetings of the Dartmouth Youth Soccer Board. Our main attentions in the beginnings were centered on the question, “Can we do it?”

From those very first meetings a small but very dedicated nucleus of people began to grow. One such dedicated person was, Charlie Murray, who took the best professional care in establishing us as a non-profit organization with the proper Articles of Organization and BY-Laws. These were brought to his attention through the astute efforts of Dick Winstanley. Dick took time in comparing other soccer organizations and then with our philosophy in mind submitted to Charlie a rough draft of our Constitution. Charlie took that same draft, refined it and then submitted it to the proper governmental departments for establishment of our non-profit, tax exempt status. A lot of time was given by Charlie and Dick both professionally and personally. We all thank them for a job well done.

At the same time others were working diligently toward that first Fall season. Bill Matteson had offered to approach the banks in the area for donations. This was a difficult effort because as we all know asking for money is a frustrating and often disheartening task. But Bill did it and with the most positive attitude I’ve ever seen. And that’s why he obtained close to one thousand dollars through his efforts.

Our nucleus was constantly becoming stronger. All of these people I am mentioning were working simultaneously and at the time, we didn’t know it, but, we were actually creating something together, all of us.

There arose from our ranks a proverbial diplomat. On whom I would most definitely recommend to go to the Salt Talks if it were at all possible -- who of course -- Tom Lynch -- and though they had the same last names they did not know each other -- Tom helped to open the doors with Carlin Lynch so that Dartmouth now realized soccer can co-exist with football.

The wheels of DYS were beginning to turn very slowly.

We began to vote on some pretty big decisions -- registrations, insurance, uniforms, and a fundraiser. Thinking back on it all I know those were big decisions John and I didn't hesitate to bring forward and to vote positively on. Why was such a positive note beginning to surface in our idea those first months? When John and I first talked to friends before December of 1983 we won't forget our first few supporters -- Judy Moe, Dave Erickson, Arthur Andrade, Charlie Murray, Tom Lynch and Manny Garcia -- Their words of encouragement and vital help at the outset are what made us take those first steps. They offered immediately how can I help? You may think I don't know, or you, yourselves, probably do not realize how you actually began to pass the word. You passed the word and it spread, throughout all of Dartmouth and surrounding towns. And we saw people needed, what we wanted to give.

The month of May came upon us before we knew it and through Judy's efforts those pre-registrations went out. And our P.O. Box began to fill up daily. The fruits of our efforts began to show themselves. Dartmouth wanted us. We all got the word out together. And it didn't seem difficult -- It just happened.

Summer came and Arthur began building goals and Manny began asking for money for other goals. Dave Erickson began the endless task of recruiting coaches and behold our Directors emerged.

Mike Doherty, our Under-8 director, Tom Lynch in the Under 10's, and Bill St. George in the Under 12's and 14's. Final registration took place and the tremendous task of choosing teams fell on them with Judy and Dick making certain all was "fair and equitable".

And then it all happened on Sept. t, 1984; twenty-eight teams of children between the ages 6-14 and 75 3-5 year olds marched behind our banner. At approximately 12 noon the first games began.

It happened. We did it! And I still cannot believe how proud I personally am of all of you. The hours you have all put in no one knows except us. And it can't even all be mentioned. Arther and John with the fields, worked so hard every Saturday faithfully. The hours the Murphys and McAlisters gave to fund-raising. The help Judy gave us in obtaining SMU because of her contact with Dr. Koot. The beautiful banner that Judy and Ann Choquette, Debbie Smith and Fran Gellman contributed -- No one but us knows -- Or the endless hours of organization and time that Dave gave to make a very fair and most impressive first rating clinic. No one but us knows. Or how Bill Mattes and Mike Doherty threw together a Spaghetti Dinner in three weeks time that culminated our success. No one but us knows. But what everyone does know is that we created something beautiful and meaningful and we gave it to the children of Dartmouth and best of all those children are happy because of what we did an that's the reward we all worked for from Jan. 26th of 1984 till now. And that's what we will again work from this day forward.

John and I can never thank each one of you enough for your help, guidance, encouragement but best of all your friendship.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine K. Simon