



The Lion's Den

Kings Park Soccer Club Newsletter



Early Spring 2009 Kpsc PO Box 195, Kings Park, NY 11754 (631) 265-6390 Volume #18, Issue #1



President's Corner

Is winter over yet!? How good it is to feel the grass under our feet. Spring is on its way. We are completing schedules and getting the fields ready for play. Teams are training and soon the opening whistle will sound. Our member volunteers perform something short of a miracle to get this all done so that our children can play "the beautiful game." A "thank you" is all the salary they draw for their efforts, so please remember to acknowledge them whenever you can.

Over the years many volunteers that have played significant roles in the development of the club have come and gone, making room for new blood and fresh new ideas. I want to remind you that we will be holding our annual Board of Directors elections this June. If you feel you are ready to dig into the inner workings of the club, send in your nomination. Information on nominating can be found later in the newsletter.

The spring season is also the time we award our club scholarships. Each year, in June, the Kpsc awards a minimum of \$4000 in scholarships to graduating seniors. Often, though, many deserving students do not even apply for these scholarships. So, I would like to ask you all to pass the word around. If you know of a family with a graduating senior, ask them to visit our scholarship web page for information about the scholarship program. But don't wait too long, because the application deadline is April 15.

This past winter, during President's week, we hosted the Long Island Winter Classic. For the fifth year in a row, we saw some great soccer and sold out the tournament with 116 teams in 29 divisions. We played small sided matches on two fields for 5 consecutive 12 hour days and even hosted two late night sessions for

2009 Kpsc Scholarships



Application Deadline is April 15, 2009

See the Scholarship Section of the Kpsc Web Site for Details!

older teams. The Kpsc entered 16 travel and inter league teams in the tournament and one-third of them brought home either a Gold or Silver medal.

Again this spring we will provide an online version of our Program Evaluation. The Program Evaluation gives each parent the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to the club on various topics. The feedback provided will help the club focus on providing and improving those programs that are most important to our members. Keep an eye on the club web site for more details on the Program Evaluation.

I would like to thank the Kings Park Schools for providing some much needed classroom and gym space. This has allowed some of our younger teams to train over the winter and enables us to provide coaching and CPR training to our adult members.

Please take some time to visit our web site at www.kpsc.org. Here you can keep up to date on the latest Kpsc happenings. We will be offering some advanced coaching classes and clinics and we will be hosting a CPR/AED class. Everything you need to know about the Kpsc is online.

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Education

Welcome back to the spring season! The players in our in house programs, U5 through U9 will begin on Sunday, March 29, 2009. The U5 and U6 divisions will continue with the Masters Coaching program as it has been running nicely and the players continue to develop into fine young soccer players. Some changes will be made to the U7 and U9 in the training of the teams. As some of you will recall, last season, the U7 and U9 training was moved from Thursday nights to Friday nights because of a change in the religion schedule at St. Joseph's Church. The participation of the players for those sessions wasn't what we had planned due to other conflicts that the players had. In order to gain some interest back in the training session for the U7 and U9 divisions, we have decided to change the training sessions for the U7 and U9 once again. The new night will be **WEDNESDAYS**. Once the schedule is made up, the division coordinator will contact the coaches and let them know the schedule. Please stay tuned for further information on the exact details of the sessions. The sessions will be for 6 weeks beginning in mid April. U7 and U9 players will still play on Sundays.

A CPR course will be given again at the High School on March 25 from 7-10 PM. The cost is \$40. Anyone who is interested in receiving CPR certification or needs to renew their certification, please contact Kim Mahoney at education@kpssc.org for further information. We need 5 registrants for the class to take place.

The Kings Park Soccer Club will sponsor two coaching courses this spring. The first course is the NSCAA "C" Course. The C course will be held on Thursdays (7-10 PM) beginning March 26th and run for 4 weeks. The dates for those classes will be 3/26, 4/2, 4/16, 4/23. Two extra dates (4/30 & 5/7) have been held in the event of schools closings. You do not need to hold another coaches license in order to participate in the C course. The fee for the course is \$80. **The manual for the class must be downloaded before the class begins. No hard copies will be available.**

President's Message, Continued from Page 1

Before you know it, the warm weather and travel and pre-travel tryouts will be here. Check the club web site for the dates of the tryouts. If your child is planning to tryout for a travel team, please remember to pre-register for tryouts. This will help us plan our staffing needs for the tryouts and make the check-in process go quick.

Lastly, I want to update you on the status of the Nissequoque River State Park. On February 27, I met with NYS Park Commissioner Carol Ash and other community leaders to discuss the disposition of the current and proposed park land. I expressed my concerns about the need for more athletic fields to help relieve the over crowding and overuse of the few fields (State, Town & School) that we do have in Kings Park. At this time the State has committed to performing a remediation study of the proposed park land. No decisions have been made on its future use. Commissioner Ash will be returning to Kings Park on March 26 to meet with all members of the Kings Park community. The meeting will be held at 7pm at the Kings Park High School. I encourage all club members to attend this meeting to hear for yourself and express your opinions of the future of the park. The NYS Parks Department will be accepting written public comment until April 9. Detailed information will be provided at the March 26 meeting.

I hope you all have a wonderful spring season and look forward to seeing you all at Soccer Day.

See you on the pitch,
Joseph Piacentino, Jr., President - KPSC

The second course we will offer is the NSCAA "B" course. The B course will be held on Tuesdays (7-10 PM) beginning March 31 and run for 5 weeks. The dates will be 3/31, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5. One extra date (5/12) is held in case of schools closings. In order to participate in this course, you will have to hold a "C" certificate for at least 1 year. The fee for the course is \$85. **The manual for the class must be downloaded before the class begins. No hard copies will be available.** Space is limited to the first 20 applicants for each class. Anyone who signs up after space is filled will be placed on a waiting list and then called if there is an opening. Anyone interested a coach's license should contact Kim Mahoney at education@kpssc.org.

We are also going to evaluate the interest in holding a few clinics during the week to continue to develop our players. Parents have approached the education department about bringing back a goalie clinic. We are evaluating the need to bring back the goalie clinic, so if anyone is interested please contact education@kpssc.org so we can determine if there is an interest from our players. Another clinic we would like to offer is the foot skills clinic. Any player interested in further developing their foot skill techniques, should contact education@kpssc.org so we can decide if there is an interest.

Finally some of you may notice an absence during training sessions. Martin Punt, Regional Director of Long Island for USA-United Soccer Academy, will still run the Long Island operation, but will not be here on a day to day basis. Martin will train a few teams during the transition before returning to the New Jersey office on a permanent basis. Martin will be available once a week to over see staffing concerns that may pop up as well check on the way training sessions are running with other staff members that will remain on Long Island during this transition. The education/training department along with Martin will oversee that this transition runs as smoothly as possible. We here at KPSC are confident that the transition will go well. We are also confident that players will receive the same professional training they received while Martin was training our teams. Should any concerns regarding the changes arise, please direct them to Kim Mahoney at education@kpssc.org.

U5 Welcome back to another exciting soccer season. It's now time to dust off your cleats, shin guards, and uniform and get out into the spring air and play soccer. This season, the U5 division has 12 teams consists of 8 to 9 players and we will be meeting on 9 Sundays to practice and play a game. Each Sunday will begin with a ½ hour training session for our coaches. Then the players arrive and are taught soccer skills and play their 3v3 game. It's an exciting time for all!

Please check the KPSC web site for schedules, cancellations, news and updates.

I look forward to seeing you and the children play this spring season. Should anyone have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at U5@kpsec.org.

Phil Trapani – U5 Coordinator (U5@kpsec.org)

U9 Now that the snow is gone and the green grass is slowly returning, another exciting soccer season is about to begin. Balls will be passing, fans will be cheering and children will be having the time of their lives while playing the great game of soccer. This season the U9 division will be playing 9 games at KPSC's own, beautiful Tiffany field. I want to remind everyone, (players, coaches and parents) that sportsmanship is our number one priority. We are all here to learn the sport and have fun doing it. Please show respect to your teammates, opponents, coaches and referees.

As in the past, we will be asking for each team to volunteer some time during one week of the season to help line the playing field. The KPSC runs on volunteer power and is thankful to all those who pitch in. It takes just a little bit of effort by just a few people to keep the program running for our children.

Have a wonderful spring season!

Karen Davella
U9 Division Coordinator (U9@kpsec.org)

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee is looking for anyone who is energetic & motivated. We are looking for ideas & people to organize this committee. The fundraising we do goes back to the players to keep costs down, produce our annual Soccer Day festivities, train players and offer clinics at little or no cost. If you are interested, please contact Kim Mahoney at adminvp@kpsec.org

Anyone interested in getting involved on a committee should visit our web site, www.kpsec.org, to see what committee may interest you. We are always welcoming new people to volunteer.

U7 It's hard to believe it, but 2008 is behind us and the Spring 2009 soccer season is here. The rosters are set, the schedule has been put together, the grass is turning green and kids should be heading out to the fields to play. In the U7 division we had some issues during the fall season created by small rosters. To alleviate this problem in the spring we have reduced the number of teams from 8 to 6. This should ensure all teams have enough players from week to week.

I look forward to seeing all the players continuing to develop their soccer skills. I know I saw a big improvement in the teams from the beginning of the fall season to the end and I am sure if they continue to go to practices and listen to their coaches they will all continue to improve even more! Have a great season and let's hear lots of encouragement and cheering for the kids from the sidelines! Let's even applaud good plays that are made by the opposing team!

Don't forget to take advantage of the professional training sessions beginning a few weeks into the season. Coaches, you should get involved in these too. You can learn some great drills and practice tips from the experienced trainers.

Be sure to thank your volunteer coaches for committing their time. They do a great job.

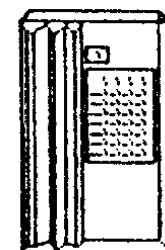
Have a great season and I look forward to seeing you on the field.

Mike Mattia - U7 Coordinator (U7@kpsec.org)

Would you like to be part of the Kings Park Board of Directors? Do you know someone that would be a great candidate? If so, you can nominate yourself or another person by sending an e-mail to nominations@kpsec.org. Include the candidate's qualifications and why you think you (or they) would be an asset to the KPSC BOD. *All nominations must be in by April 15th*. Some of the many different areas that you

can be a part of are fund raising, division and referee coordinators, registration, newsletter, grounds & fields, finance, website, special events and more. The elections for the eight available board positions will be held in June. This year we are attempting to have on-line voting for the first time. Being part of the board of directors is a great way to assure that the children of Kings Park have the best soccer experience we can offer. **You can make a difference!**

If you have any questions please feel free to ask a current board member or e-mail your questions to nominations@kpsec.org.





We had many new referees hit the fields this fall. I look forward to their continued development throughout the spring season. Together with our more experienced referees, the group is now more than 60 strong. It is

great so many kids love the game and want to be a part of it not only as a player, but as an official. It also doesn't hurt that they can make a few dollars doing something they love. For many of these kids this is their first real job and they are taking it seriously and have been working hard to become the best referees they can be.

I encourage all coaches and parents to complete a referee evaluation form after each game. Whether a referee was outstanding or needs to improve, please complete the form and let me know. The form can be found by clicking on the Referees link from the club's web site, www.kpsc.org. I read all of the referee evaluations and pass along your compliments and constructive criticisms to the referees to help them improve. I look forward to your comments.

I watched quite a few games throughout the season and when I can I offer my feedback to the young referees. They really do want to hear it to help them become the best they can be so please let me know how they are doing. Unfortunately I can't be at all the games so I need to rely on your feedback to help these young referees progress.

If you are a coach/parent in the U9 division, this is the age where you not only have referees, but also assistant referees manning the sidelines. Please make sure when you seat yourself to watch the game that you stay back from the sideline a few feet so the assistant referees have room to do their job. If you see others sitting right on the sideline, please ask them to move back. Thank you.

We won't be adding any new referees in the spring but we will in the fall. If anyone is at least 9 years old and interested in becoming a referee in the fall keep an eye on future newsletters indicating we will be holding a referee training course for new referees.

Referee Question: *True or False?* If the referee inadvertently blows his whistle he should announce "play on".

Answer: *False.* Any time the whistle blows play is stopped. This situation would result in a drop ball.

Mike Mattia – Referee Coordinator

CLUB NOTES

For the health of our children, please refrain from smoking at ALL games and practices. See the club web site for our official policy

For the safety of all involved, please leave your pets at home.

Newsletter articles can be mailed to the KPSC or E-mailed to newsletter@kpsc.org

Avoid dangerous situations by parking in designated areas at our fields. There is plenty of parking towards the back of Tiffany Fields and on R Mastrocinque Blvd. Authorities have told us that they will ticket and/or tow illegally parked cars.

Please remember Tiffany Circle is ONE WAY only.

Please help us keep our fields clean. Deposit all garbage in the trash cans placed around the field.

Intramural and Inter League coaches can complete a Referee Evaluation each week. Just visit the Referee Section of the KPSC Web Site.

The Lion's Den can be viewed in Full Color in the Newsletter Section of the KPSC Web Site..

Have you seen the KPSC Online Photo Gallery? Registered KPSC Members can create their own albums and upload digital photos of their teams and club events.

Visit the Club Web Site to add your email address to our General Announcements e-mail list and you will be notified about upcoming clinics, classes, meetings and special events!

Our Volunteers are NOT Paid.

Not Because They are Worthless, But Because They are Priceless.



The official color of the Kings Park Soccer Clubs uniform is now maroon. Green has been the Clubs color for almost 30 years and last year the Board voted to change it from green to maroon so that we could match the colors of the Kings Park School District.

Uniforms can be purchased from:

Port Jefferson Sporting Goods
44 East Main Street
Smithtown, NY 11787
(631) 366-2252
Closed Tuesdays

Thank you,
 Phil Trapani

Special Events

This year the Greater Long Island Runners will be in Smithtown on March 14th for those of you who participate and those who want to cheer them on visit their web site at www.theglirc.org. We will not be manning a table in this event as in years past. Although this was a great opportunity for community service we will have other events that KPSC can use your help.

Rough Riders move to St. Anthony's High School – yes that's correct! Their 2009 home games will be played at Cy Donnelly Field, located at St. Anthony's High School in Huntington. Last season, the Rough Riders played three games at St. Anthony's High School, including the 1-0 playoff victory over the Boston Breakers which sent the Women's team to the Eastern Conference semifinals in Atlanta. The new state-of-the-art facility is an indoor facility which allows for year round training for the Rough Riders which will enable them (both men/women's teams) to continue producing top-level soccer players on Long Island. This facility also features a training location for over 400 premier youth soccer players between the ages of 8 and 17.



Look here or on the KPSC website for Club sponsored dates @ Rough Riders this coming season. Hope to see you there!

Soccer season is starting soon let's play ball and have a great time outdoors! Wishing you and yours a great Spring season!

Connie Lopez-Moorman
 Special Events Coordinator – 366-1015



Online Program Evaluation Coming This Spring!

Again this spring, each KPSC member family will be able to submit an online program evaluation for each of their registered children.

Parents will be able to provide feedback about the club programs, training and coaching. All evaluations can be completed anonymously in the privacy of your own home.

In early April, each family will receive one email for each registered child. Each email will contain instructions on how to complete the Program Evaluation. This will ensure that each family submits no more than one Program Evaluation for each registered child. This email will be sent to the email address that was used when the child was registered. So, if your email address has changed, please let us know by sending an email to registration@kpsec.org, along with your child's registration ID.

Feedback from the Program Evaluations will be used to help improve the programs that are most important to you to make sure that your child is getting the most from the KPSC experience. We hope you will each take the time to participate in the Program Evaluation this coming April.



Kings Park Winners

Boys Age	Winner	Girls Age	Winner
4	John Matthews	4	Maddie Canonico
5	Marc Tollcin	5	Samatha Cestone
6	Matthew Manna		
7	Tyler Finnin	7	Katie Mullady
8	Eoghan McGovern	8	Olivia Pitta
9	Richie Price	9	Cori Finnin
10	Philip Pitta	10	Elizabeth Gunning
11	Sean Russo	11	Emily Morello
12	Thomas Woods	12	Theresa Repole
		13	Ashley Morello
14	Brenden Husted		
15	Rob Dezendorf		

Suffolk County Winners

11	Sean Russo	11	Emily Morello
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KPSC Board of Directors



Executive Officers

Joseph Piacentino, Jr. - President, Web Site, Newsletter
Kim Mahoney - Administrative VP, Education
Dan M^cNamara - Operational VP
Karen Davella - Secretary, U9
Mike Buono - Treasurer

Board Members

Jim Corcoran - Tournaments
Connie Lopez-Moorman - Special Events
Rose Mangogna - Registration, Resources
Mike Mattia - U7, Referees
Dennis M^cGovern - U6, Education
Jim Pagano - Grounds & Fields
Mike Rozza - Inter League
Jeff Stern - Travel, Scholarships
Phil Trapani - U5, Uniforms

KPSC Board of Directors meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00pm at the Nissequogue River State Park.

All Board meetings are open to the public.



Kings Park Soccer Club
P.O. Box 195
Kings Park, NY 11754-0195

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