



Just for Kicks...

From the President's Desk...

This is my first editorial with the newsletter as the BCYSL President. Our newsletter is open to all towns to use as a corresponding platform. The theme of my letter is about how important it is for the town's boards, our BCYSL Board, coaches, parents, and players to continually work at becoming educated in all aspects of youth soccer. This is only my third term as a board member and it has been a very educational experience for me. I thought with all my playing and coaching years in soccer, that I would have an easy time adjusting to an administrative role as an Executive board member...boy was I wrong! I feel as though I have just begun my tour on this educational journey. It is important that all of us involved with BCYSL continue to become educated.

I would like to start by giving a brief summary of the members of the BCYSL Board in hopes of educating the towns of exactly who makes up this sitting Board. First, I would like to thank Greg Nowicki who stepped down as the BCYSL President. He was a sincere and dedicated member of this Board. Greg has been instrumental in bringing this current sitting board in line with the rest of the State. Greg's involvement started in the Adams-Savoy Soccer Club and continued through up to the President of BCYSL. We are than kful that Greg has decided to stay involved in BCYSL, as an advisory board member.

We have a very well rounded board with both veterans and newcomers, who have a mission of ensuring Berkshire County stands out in youth soccer organizations. Along with Greg, we have Tom Alfonsi, Bill Koziara and Donna Larocque as veteran board members. Donna is our Treasurer and really has been our "connection" and our voice to MYSA and the League's Committee with our State affiliation. She stepped in after Greg's tenure as President and kept BCYSL in the loop as our representative to the State committees. Tom Alfonsi has been a long-time sitting member as one of the Member-At-Large seats. He has also been a longtime member of the PSC Board and an active coach. He works very diligently at ensuring we stay in line with MYSA regulations and along with Donna informs the Board of how the current regulations and bylaws have come to be. Bill Koziara rounds out our veteran group as our Head Referee. He has been in this position for several years and has a great rapport with all of the towns, Leagues Assignor/Scheduler and the State Referee's committee. He has been an active official in Berkshire County for many years. This group of veteran board members has been very helpful in making the newer members feel welcome and comfortable. They continue to keep our Board posted with insight and with our counterparts from MYSA. They have made good friendships and contacts with this Board, keeping us closely linked in recent years to MYSA. (continued inside)

Dustin Belcher, formerly the League's Registrar, became the Vice President last year. Dustin has been a Town Coordinator and U-14 boys coach with the Dalton organization for many years. His involvement with many other youth boards has been a great asset to BCYSL. He is also a referee and sitting member with Berkshire County High School Soccer Officials Association. Cathy Schnopp joined us as an Advisory board member three years ago and was quickly appointed the Secretary, due to a resignation almost immediately that same year. Cathy worked very hard at educating herself on the responsibilities of her position, as well as, ensuring she was thoroughly educated on the MYSAs regulations during her first term. Jim Hunt, our Registrar, also first joined us as an Advisory member last year. He is a past member of the Pittsfield Soccer Club. Jim has done an excellent job becoming accustomed to the Registrar's position. His calm demeanor and approach works well with this position. Bob Monteleone is a Member-at-Large from the Lenox Soccer Club. He was appointed to the Advisory Board in his first year. He was then appointed to the Member-at-Large position and re-elected at the recent Annual General Meeting. Bob's background is a very calming influence for the entire Board. He has been a coach in Lenox for several years and also serves as the towns co-coordinator. He was very helpful in the merger of the two Lenox soccer clubs last year.

Will Metcalf, Bill Yehle, and Rob Swann round out the newcomers to the board. Will comes from the Lenox programs as a club coach over the past few years. His knowledge and insight as a former player and coach has been very helpful as an Advisory Board member. Bill has been the "Mr. Everything" in Lee for many, many years. He has been the Town Coordinator, scorekeeper, a coach and not only an Advisory Board member to BCYSL, but also our Webmaster. His knowledge of BCYSL as a coach, town official, and as someone outside of the board makes him a very unique Advisory Board member. Rob Swann is our newest member of the Advisory Board. He comes from the Williamstown Soccer Club. His experience as a player and coach will be very helpful as he becomes accustomed to his new position.

I, myself, was elected as the Vice President three years ago. I stepped in as the President when Greg stepped down about a year ago. I come from the Berkshire Hills Youth Soccer club as a former U-12 and U-14 Boys coach and a sitting member of their local soccer board as well. I am also a member of the High School Soccer Officials Association.

The two other people closely associated with this board are Dan McMahon of Dalton and Carl Filios of Pittsfield. Dan has been a coach, Town Coordinator, Scheduler, and a founding member of this organization. Dan has put many years into this League. As the League Scheduler, he was responsible for each season's schedule for many, many years. He has recently stepped down and we thank him for a job very well done, Thanks Dan! Carl has accepted the role of League Scheduler and has been our Assignor for many years. His job is to schedule all games and assign all officials for each game. Carl is an employee of this Board and not a BCYSL Board member (a common misconception). So, it is important that any questions and/or concerns be sent to the BCYSL Board. Carl has been very involved in BCYSL for many years and his insight has been very helpful over the years.

It was my goal, in filling many of these vacancies, to bring in members from as many different towns/clubs as possible. This is certainly the most diverse board, as far as town/club representation goes, that has sat in many years.

We're on the Web!
www.bcysl.org

It is our hope, that like us, the entire BCYSL "family" continues to become more educated about youth soccer. It is our hope that people who decide to become a part of youth soccer take the initiative to educate themselves about soccer and how BCYSL operates. The educational process could be started with BCYSL's own website. Bill Yehle has done an excellent job as our Webmaster. The website offers all kinds of information about the towns and who represents these towns. The bylaws on how the League operates, as well as, all the forms that are utilized during the course of year are found there.

The website also provides a venue for the different towns/clubs to post news on coaching clinics, clinics for kids, and also offers clinics for officials. The BCYSL Board, as well as the towns/clubs, think it is important that everyone gets involved. It is important that all who get involved also become educated. League announcements, current standings, rules, forms, and field locations are all available on this website. Please become informed. The coaches should take the next step in their education with BCYSL. Many towns in the past such as Berkshire Hills, Lenox, and PSC have taken the initiative to ensure they promote soccer education by offering coaching classes open to all County participants. Soccer is different than most sports in that many parents have played basketball, baseball, and softball. Most towns would agree that many coaches and parents have not played soccer. This is why we feel it is important to offer these types of programs to ensure we are all as educated as possible on the sports we get involved in. BCYSL also offers an annual official's course. Bill Koziara and Carl Filios are responsible for this program and all inquiries can be directed to them.

I want everyone to know that we have a fining structure in place when rules are not followed with our League. However, this is not a "get rich scheme". Many of the dollars that go into this fining program, in turn go into our Scholarship Fund. Each year we award scholarships to BCYSL players who are graduating from high school and moving on to college. All information can be found on our website (www.bcysl.org). Scholarship application is another area where we want more people in the soccer community aware of this opportunity and having students apply. In the past, we have had few applicants each year apply for the scholarship awards; we would love to see this change!

In closing, I'd like to say that these past few years have been an educational experience for me and the entire Board. We too try to become more educated with the towns/clubs, our bylaws, MYSA regulations, and MTOC rules. There is a learning curve for us all whether board members, coordinators, coaches, or parents. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact us via the email addresses listed on the BCYSL website. We appreciate your efforts in joining us to help educate everyone involved in Berkshire County Youth Soccer as we go forward on this exciting journey together.

With you in Soccer,
Brian Farley
BCYSL President



**Spring Season Start Date:
May 3rd, 2008**

Have a GREAT Season!

BERKSHIRE COUNTY
YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

141 Velma Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Questions? Concerns? Comments?
Email: newsletter@bcysl.org

The Head Referee's Corner...

Welcome to the BCYSL Spring newsletter:

Since the Fall season ended your BCYSL Board members have had monthly meetings answering questions, amending Bylaws and trying to make this year the best ever. I think we succeeded, time will tell.

For you players, don't forget that yellow and red cards will be tracked not only for a tie breaker but will also become part of your record in BCYSL. Play smart, THINK! Our hats go off to the Dalton U-14 Girls team coached by Kathy Budaj who made it to the MTOC finals only to lose in a heartbreaker! What a game! Congratulations girls!

Last year BCYSL awarded 2 scholarships to former BCYSL players going on to college. Act now, see if you qualify. Applications are available on our website, www.bcy-sl.org, so don't be left out!

Here are a few thoughts of my own. As soccer play becomes faster and more sophisticated we must remember that BCYSL is about youth soccer. Players will make silly mistakes, coaches will call out the wrong player's names and yes, there will be refs who make calls you disagree with. That's all part of the game of soccer so try to learn from it and enjoy it.

Thanks for your time and good luck to all!!

Bill Koziara
Head Referee, BCYSL

Important Reminders...

- Any game/schedule changes must have a check for \$25.00 remitted to BCYSL Treasurer **BEFORE** the Assignor will consider the change.
- All cards issued during a game **MUST** be recorded and reported by the Club's Scorekeeper.
- Tryouts may only be held after the conclusion of the current season.
- Players are only considered stranded if their home town has no team for his/her age and gender.
- Rosters are single gender teams in the U10 through U16 divisions.
- All current Clubs are grandfathered until dissolution of the Club.
- Some additional fees/fines include:
 - \$10.00 fee for any roster change(s) after the start of the season.
 - \$25.00 fee for each game forfeited
(a forfeit is a cancellation done with less than two hours prior to game time)
 - \$100.00 for a no show team (within the first 15 minutes of scheduled start time)
 - \$200.00 for any team directly contacting the opponent and/or the assigned ref to change a game