


WV Teams Give Strong Performance in 2002 Provincial Cup

by John Bowen



West Vancouver Soccer Club is small compared to many in BC. But its impact on youth soccer in the province is anything but small. In the Premier A division of the Provincial Cup this Spring, both the boys and girls U12 gold teams took third place.

And in the Challenge B Cup division, the U15 girls, WV Fury came second. Well done West Vancouver girls and boys.

We have good players in West Vancouver. But good players need good coaching. Read "Head to Head with WVSC's Head Coach" on P.2. . 



WEST VANCOUVER SOCCER CLUB SIDELINES

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Head to Head with WVSC's Head Coach

By John Bowen

Even if you have been associated with soccer in West Vancouver for a short time, you will have noticed some recent broad-based changes in the character of youth soccer in the community. For one thing, our boys and girls teams, at all levels, are playing better soccer and enjoying it more. You might also have noticed at games, practices and tournaments, a figure in a black tracksuit watching the play unobtrusively, but intently from the sidelines. You may not know him, but your kids do and chances are, he knows your kid well, as a soccer player. He is Jamshid Afshar (or Jammer, as he is better known in soccer circles), West Vancouver's official Club Head Coach.

Jammer, in his quiet and modest way, has made a considerable impact on the quality of youth soccer in West Vancouver in the short time he has been Head Coach. It is unusual, for example, for WVSC to have three teams in the Provincial Cup playoffs, as we did this year. For the first time, three out of the four teams in the U11 Girls' Community Cup semi-finals were WV teams. A WV team won the cup. A U12 girls' team won the Interdistrict Championship. More significantly perhaps, the overall quality of play at every level and every age group is better for having Jammer as Club Head Coach.

For this issue of Sidelines, I decided to meet Jammer for coffee and ask him questions about his work as WVSC Head Coach, his perspectives on the future of soccer in West Vancouver and about his West Vancouver Soccer Academy. This is what he said...

Editor: *"Jammer, In a nutshell, what is the West Vancouver Soccer Club Head Coach's job about?"*

Jammer: "During the season, my main job as Club Head Coach is team coaching. By that I mean, I provide support on an ongoing basis to regular team coaches. I try to

visit practices and sometimes games of all WVSC teams as often as I can. I get to know the players and the coaches and I provide feedback to the coaches. My other big responsibility is to manage the tryouts at the end of the season. My coaching work during the year with players, teams and coaches helps me with the tryouts. The tryouts themselves are now more an end of a season-long process, than a one-shot, hit or miss situation. Another important job for me is coach development and I'll talk about that later."



Jammer demonstrating diving headers to new son, Sabastion (U1 boys)

Editor: *"Do other soccer clubs have head coaches?"*

Jammer: "It's a growing trend. Abbotsford, Burnaby and Coquitlam do. The Canadian and BC Soccer Associations are keen to see more club head coaches who work with association coaches at all levels."

Editor: *"What are your long-term objectives, or mission, if you like?"*

Jammer: "Nothing is more important to me than to be able to pass on my passion for the game of soccer to coaches, parents, managers and especially to players in West Vancouver. Enthusiasm for the game is critical to developing strong players, strong teams and a strong club. I want players to feel that they are playing the greatest game in the world. I think I have made inroads already. When I started with the club,

I noticed gold level players fooling around before games and practices. I'm happy to say that I see a very different attitude now. Players arrive at a game and immediately get busy warming up and practicing."

Editor: *"How does WV's performance compare to other club's in BC and Canada?"*

Jammer: "West Vancouver is doing well and better all the time. But if Canada is serious about becoming a major force in world soccer, we have a lot of work to do, in all clubs across BC and Canada. Kids in Brazil and other third-world countries become skilled players partly by just playing all the time. We are a very different county, but we need to find our own ways of giving our kids opportunities to play soccer creatively."

Editor: *"How can we improve more and are there obstacles that need to be removed, before we can see big advances in team performance?"*

Jammer: "A major difficulty we face is having a lot of young enthusiastic players without a corresponding number of coaches with playing experience of their own. The current popularity of youth soccer is a relatively new phenomenon in North America. We are fortunate in having committed adults who are prepared to give up their time to coach. What many of them lack, is first hand experience of the game. This is a self-correcting problem over time. In the mean time, I think it is important for me to work with coaches to compensate for this general lack of soccer experience. Another thing, I cannot stress enough with players, coaches and parents is the need to fine tune basic foot skills. It is repetitive and I am repetitive on the point, but without investing time to improve foot skills, teaching the rest is a waste."

Editor: *"What are your goals for the upcoming season?"*

Jammer: "Coach development is a high priority for this year. The problem is coaching is itself a big commitment of time and formal certification takes a lot more time. I'd like to find ways of giving coaches and assistant coaches concentrated, uncertified development opportunities that take a couple of hours at a time, rather than weeks and months of evenings and weekends. Another priority for early in the season is to get

our teams' fitness levels up. I don't just mean a bit of running during regular practices, but some real fitness training, outside of regular practices. Complimentary sports, like cross-country or swimming are one way. Fitness does not only make for better game results, it means fewer player injuries. Thirdly, I think I'd like to extend the *Mentor Program* to younger age groups. I think it would be good for U12 players for instance, to help coach U7 or U8 players."

Editor: "What advice do you have for players in West Vancouver?"

Jammer: "I'd like to encourage every player to keep their spirits up and to keep trying. Sometimes, say when you are not placed on the team you would like to be on, you can get discouraged. It is important to remember that every year represents a fresh opportunity to try out again. When I tried out for the provincial team in Ontario the first time, I did not even qualify. I was devastated. The second year I just missed it and I was sick about it. The third year I made it and excelled."

Editor: "What advice do you have for player's parents?"

Jammer: "Support your player to the fullest and it is great to cheer them on at games. But be mindful of the fact that while they are playing, they are being coached and to shout instructions to your child can be counter-productive. Support your coach. She or he has a tough job."

Editor: "Tell us about the West Vancouver Soccer Academy and your different training programs for the upcoming year."

Jammer: "I established the Academy because it was apparent to me that there was a need for high-calibre player coaching in West

President's Message by Ken Savage

To: All Members of the West Vancouver Soccer Club


The Board of Director's wishes to welcome you back to another soccer season. It seems like just a few weeks ago that the last season ended.

Please check out all of the valuable information in this issue of Sidelines. Also, our website continues to be an excellent source of additional information throughout the season. Check it out at www.westvansoccer.com.

Our Board is struggling to maintain a full complement of Directors. We are looking for any volunteers who share our passion for the game. Please e-mail me at Ken_Savage@telus.net if you can volunteer or are aware of anyone who might be interested.

To the coaches and managers - our thanks for all your efforts and your love for the game. To the parents - support your team, your child, and the efforts of the coach. If there are concerns or suggestions, please talk to the coach or manager. To the players - play the game, enjoy the game, and have fun.

Regards in Soccer,

Ken Savage, President 


Vancouver. The Academy offers player training at all levels. We hold weeklong camps throughout the summer, during spring break and other times. We also hold high-performance camps from September to June. The camps are popular and benefit a lot of players."

Editor: "Tell us about the coaches who work with you at the Academy."

Jammer: "I have three excellent coaches working with me. All of them are committed and well qualified. Jessie Symons recently obtained his B coaching license, a remarkable accomplishment for a young man. Lee Rayson is on track to obtain his B license and Matt Walker has his Community Senior Coaching Certification."

Editor: "How do you feel about West Vancouver players going to other soccer camps and training programs?"

Jammer: "I think the Academy has an excellent range of offerings that meet the needs of all ages and levels of player. But I recognize that there are other good camps and coaching programs available and there is benefit in exposing players to different coaching styles. I think it is

important for players to get as much learning and play time as possible, wherever they go to get it." 

West Vancouver Fields Report

By Claudia Sparling
(presented at the WVSC
AGM, May 13, 2002)

First off I would like to thank all coaches & managers for their cooperation and understanding on those


West Coast weather weekends when grass fields are closed and you must move to all weather alternates and/or have your game cancelled. As a manager of my son's soccer team I know all too well how long it takes to contact all involved.

I would also like to thank West Van Parks, Jim Hamilton, Turf/Grass Supervisor for all his time and cooperation in ensuring the fields were in their best possible shape, keeping in mind that kids want to play soccer and doing his best to keep the fields open. The new system that allowed West Van Soccer Club to open fields under Jim's guidance worked well, Jim was always available and he commented that we took great care and caution when opening up fields.

A big thanks to Rob Lennox for all of his support with fields thru my eight plus years. Our West Van fields are old and tired and need TLC to survive. We probably will experience more field closures in the 2002/2003 Season and we will have to be patient as Parks is doing the best they can with the monies allotted to field maintenance. Les Mezararos & Ken Savage have been meeting with Parks delegates to hopefully get a "Turf" field for West Vancouver, but this will not be next season so we must follow the strict "field closure" guidelines:

The Parks will continue to give field closure information to me by 3 pm Fridays (after they have walked each field) I will then record the information on our West Van Soccer

Club Field Information Line, 604-926-6863, Friday's after 3 p.m.

If any team shows up at a field that was open on Friday's recording, but due to weather conditions has deteriorated and has standing water or soft areas on the field, the teams must move to their designated all weather field. If a team fails to comply with this policy a fine will be issued and result in loss of privileges on grass fields. This will be strictly enforced. If a field was closed on Friday but deemed playable on Sunday, i.e. you have received a call from me, the Field Closure Signs can be removed for the game but must be replaced at the conclusion of the game. 

A New Way of Introducing Young Players to The Game of Soccer

By Jammer - WVSC Head Coach

For the 2002/03 season, the West Vancouver Soccer Club will be introducing an excellent new U6/U7 program. The following information will explain how the program will be run and how your child will benefit from it.

The program will begin on Saturday September 14. Every Saturday, from September to March, players will show up at the field and sign in at the administrative tent. When signing in, players will be randomly assigned coloured pinnies. Each player may sign in with a friend, so that there will always be a friend on the team that they are playing on.

This colour will be their team for the day. So, if a player is assigned to the yellow team (Brazil), he/she will play one quarter each against other teams wearing different coloured pinnies. Once assigned to a team, a team chaperone (Staff Coach) helps the children move from field to field at the end of each quarter to play their new opponent. The following week, the players will get mixed up with new players and play on a "new" team against "new" opponents.

During October, November, February and March WVSC Staff Coaches will run once-a-week, one-hour practices at the different elementary schools. Parents will be advised at the first Saturday session the times of the practices. Parents will also receive a uniform for their child at the first Saturday session.

On some weekends (from September to March), the Club Head Coach will offer some non-certified coaching clinics to those parents who wish to coach teams in the future. The clinics will cover the following: how to run a practice, age-specific drills and games, rules and laws of the game. An announcement will be made in advance when these clinics will take place so any parent interested can sign-up to participate.


Young children who join sports may face a variety of considerable pressures. A child who simply desires to play a game may not anticipate the pressure of committing to regular, challenging practices, of performing drills correctly and of feeling they must not let down teammates. As a result of such demands, a child may choose to abandon the sport at an early age, never to return.

This new program, with its "drop-in" format and lack of "adult judgement" alleviates these pressures and enables children to ease their way into the sport at their own pace. And because the teams are always different, the kids learn to cooperate with a variety of players while having fun and while experimenting on their own.

Quality instruction will be important to the future development of these kids, but should be provided only after the kids have developed a love for the game. These young players will have a much greater desire and enthusiasm to learn skills that may be inhibiting their performance in games.

There are a number of clubs in the US and even here in BC (Abbotsford Soccer Club) that have adopted this particular program. Parents who have children participating have given extremely positive feedback to their respective clubs.

We will try it out at our club. If you are a parent, coach or manager of U6 or U7 players, please let us know how

well you think this new system is working. You can email me directly atjafshar@shaw.ca or club President, Ken Savage at Ken_Savage@shaw.ca 

World Class Soccer Comes to Vancouver

When Vancouver plays host to the first ever FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship in August 2002, it will welcome the world of international soccer and serve as an exciting backdrop against which to profile our local soccer clubs & teams.



The four participating nations at the Vancouver venue were determined at an official draw held at FIFA House in Zurich, Switzerland.

European Champions **Germany**, South American Champions **Brazil**, European runners-up **France**, and CONCACAF qualifiers **Mexico** will compete at Burnaby's Swangard Stadium in Group B first round action, August 17-21, in the 12-team World Championship. Vancouver will also host a quarter-final match on August 24. Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium and Victoria's Centennial Stadium are the other venues for the event, with the final to be played September 1 in Edmonton.

Group A	Group B	Group C
Edmonton	Vancouver	Victoria
A1 - Canada	B1 - Germany	C1 - USA
A2 - Denmark	B2 - France	C2 - England
A3 - Nigeria	B3 - Mexico	C3 - Chinese Taipei
A4 - Japan	B4 - Brazil	C4 - Australia

In the first round of play, the four teams in each group will play each other once, in a set of three doubleheaders. In Vancouver, Germany and France will open play on Saturday, August 17 in a 5:00 p.m. start at Swangard Stadium in what is a rematch of the European U-19 Women's Championship Final. The game will be followed by Mexico and Brazil at 7:30 p.m.

Eight of the 12 teams, the top two in each group and the two best third-place finishers, will advance to the quarter

finals. A total of 26 games will be played, seven each in Vancouver and Victoria, and 12 in Edmonton.

Vancouver Venue Schedule

(all games at Swangard Stadium)

Saturday	August 17	5:00pm	Germany vs France
		7:30pm	Mexico vs Brazil
Monday	August 19	5:00pm	France vs Mexico
		7:30pm	Brazil vs Germany
Wednesday	August 21	5:00pm	France vs Brazil
		7:30pm	Mexico vs Germany
Saturday	August 24	7:00pm	1st Place Group B vs 2nd Place Group

Germany and France finished first and second at the UEFA U-19 Women's Championship in Sweden, with Germany defeating France 3-1 in the final. Germany had earlier defeated England 1-0 in the semi-finals, while France got past Denmark 1-0. All four European semi-finalists qualified for Canada 2002.

Brazil easily captured the lone qualifying berth for South America, defeating Peru by identical 6-0 scores in a home-and-away series back in March.

Mexico became one of the final teams to qualify for Canada 2002 by defeating Trinidad & Tobago 5-1 in Trinidad. Mexico had earlier posted a 3-0 win over Panama and tied Jamaica 1-1. The USA and Canada are the other two nations from the CONCACAF region to qualify, Canada as hosts, while the USA won all three of their qualifying games by a combined score of 34-1.

This will be the first time that Vancouver has played host to a FIFA World Championship tournament. Canada last hosted a FIFA World Championship in 1987 when the U-17 Men's Championship was staged in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario

For further information please contact Canadian Soccer Association, Yannick Unvoas - Vancouver Venue Coordinator, www.canadasoccer.com/fifawu19, 604-299-5756, Fax: 604-291-7474, E-mail: fifa19@soccerbc.com



Winning! How Important Is It in Youth Sports?

By Michael A. Clark Ph.D. Youth Sports Institute, Michigan State University *Reprinted from Spotlight on Youth Sports, Michigan State University*

The answer to this question depends upon who is responding. For the young athletes themselves, the answer evidently is, "Not very." When a national sample of youth, aged 10 to 18 years, were asked why they participated in sports, "to win" was not among the top ten reasons for girls and was only seventh on the list for boys. Moreover, when these same young people were asked what they would change about sports, "less emphasis on winning" made the top ten on the list for both genders. Attitudes about the importance of winning change with the athletes' ages: Younger athletes are more interested in the "fairness" of their games, while older athletes become more concerned about winning. But even then, many young athletes say that they would rather play on a losing team than "sit the bench" on a winning team.

Administrators and officials often emphasize participation over competition in the rules for contests and the guidelines they prepare for coaches. Especially for younger players, rules often require equal amounts of playing time for all, while discouraging keeping scores or records. The number of programs taking this approach seems to be growing. Such programs proclaim, "Everyone is a winner!" The administrators mean this sincerely, but they often seem to have little idea of exactly how to turn the slogan into reality.

However, if coaches and parents were asked how important winning is to their child's success in sports, many of them clearly would respond, "VERY!" Even when program directors refuse to keep game scores or won-lost records, the other adults involved - the coaches and parents - know exactly what the results are. For them, winning in youth games is

important, and so quickly it develops that "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing," as legendary football coach Vince Lombardi is supposed to have observed. Adults who believe that an accent on winning is essential to success make much of the best record or leading scorer; they hand out championship trophies and name most valuable players.

Coaches, parents and spectators who focus on winning in these terms are viewing youth sports as they likely would view adult endeavors. This thinking often results in mistaking the winning or losing of contests with the success or failure of the contestants or even with whether the athletes are good or bad people. Concentrating solely on the final score as the important outcome of games causes people to develop a very narrow definition of winning. The consequences of this are potentially damaging to young athletes.

The way out of this dangerously narrow view of winning in youth sports may lie in what Coach Lombardi actually said: "Winning isn't everything, but striving to win is." Vern Seefeldt, director of the Youth Sports Institute, reinforced this point when he observed, "Striving to win is the essence of sports." By placing the emphasis on the athletes and their effort, winning is redefined in such a way that it comes within the reach of all.

But how is effort defined and measured?

In part, the answer lies in observing the athletes at play. It is relatively easy to see whether young athletes are taking the competition seriously or are simply "playing the game." The former requires a sincere effort, made by athletes who know the skills and strategies of the sport and who execute them as ably as possible within the spirit of the rules; the latter may occur at any level of play and is apparent by in the athletes' lack of enthusiasm and effort.

Each performance must be evaluated within the context of the sport. Scoring points, lowering times or improving distances are relevant, because they imply something about the effort made. Equally important are knowing what defense the opponents are using, being able to "stick" a dismount or understanding when to ice the puck. Making a kick turn, using a scissors takedown or shooting a left-handed lay-up and executing these moves correctly while competing also are expressions of

effort and, therefore, success. In short, making an effort to be competitive involves a complex set of tasks, which differ from sport to sport.

Moreover, it is obvious when athletes are failing to put forth the proper effort to make each minute of a contest competitive. "Games" often are referred to as "contests," and at some time, every coach, player or spectator has been involved in games that have ceased to be contests. When this happens, everyone "loses." The clues are many and varied: the players appear to be "going through the motions." Coaches cease to worry about strategies. Officials make strange decisions or "no-calls." Spectators lose interest and leave or begin socializing. But most importantly, as Seefeldt observed, "playing a game as if you don't care with a lethargic effort takes all the fun out of sports." When the games are no longer contests, playing them ceases to be fun. The players mock "winning" such games, for they sense how hollow victory is in such situations.

The challenge is for the adults associated with youth sports to redefine winning in terms of effort and to restructure play to promote effort. Some potential changes lie in:

- Creating balanced competitions so that outcomes are in doubt.
- Helping players set achievable, individual goals.
- Teaching athletes to measure their success in terms of attaining such goals
- Celebrating with and rewarding players who reach their goals.

The first point focuses on the motivation of young athletes. Generally, young athletes want competitions to be fair and for the outcome to be in question. If these conditions are met, they will make a maximum effort. Otherwise, they are likely to spend their time complaining about how unbalanced the teams are or how unfair the game is. It is adults who "stack" teams and want to win by lop-sided

scores; young athletes tell researchers that fairness is the essence of the games they play.

Meaningful and attainable goals are essential to success in any activity, but never more so than in youth sports. Children should have clearly defined goals to work for and learn, and they deserve to be intimately involved in establishing these goals. Individual goals are much more effective than group or team goals. They allow each athlete to know exactly what needs to be accomplished.


With individual goals clearly defined, athletes should expect to have their efforts measured against advancement towards these goals. Reaching these goals can only be accomplished through learning and executing the essentials of the sport. Thus, the goals become the means of measuring effort: did the athletes make the kind of effort in each practice and competition that moved them closer to achieving their stated goals, or was the effort inconsistent, weak or lackluster? If a player's effort was aimed at achieving the goals, then the performance was a success no matter what the score of the competition.

Finally, when the previously determined goals are reached, the athlete's achievement should be recognized and honored. In addition to motivating the athlete, this acknowledges the importance of striving to meet the goals, to be competitive, to make the effort.

Making the effort is within the reach of any athlete and is appropriate for all athletes. Consequently, it constitutes a definition of winning that can be applied to all situations. Adults who use it will go far toward ensuring that young athletes have positive experiences.

In this context, the proper questions for adults to ask are not "Did you win?" or "How many points did you score?" Rather coaches and parents should want to know "Did you give your best effort?" or "Did you do something better than you previously could?" Young athletes often can answer "Yes" to these questions, even when the scoreboard stands against them.

This redefinition of winning makes it possible to accommodate a variety of views of youth sports. The most vocal critics of competition in youth sports are the able to see the benefits of making it possible for all athletes to become winners. The staunchest advocates of highly competitive sports generally will recognize the value of setting goals and weighing performance in terms of effort toward reaching the goals.


The result of defining "winning" in terms of effort rather than outcome is to make youth sports more humane, meaningful, satisfying and enjoyable. In this way, the correct answer to the question "How important is winning?" becomes "VERY!" Striving to win and giving one's best effort are objectives that every coach, player, parent or adult can and should support. 

Suggestions For Dealing With Issues With Your Coach

By Ken Savage

Youth soccer coaches typically are parents of players who give up their time for free. They try hard, by and large, to do the best job they can for the kids and to be fair to all. Still, sometimes issues arise between parents and coaches. Usually they are resolved with little more than a chat, but occasionally the problem persists. If this should be the case this coming season on your child's team, I suggest that you deal with the matter as follows.

First, have the player talk to the coach about what the problem is. If this does not resolve the problem, the parent should talk to the coach and manager.

The next and final step would be for the parent to contact the age group coordinator or another member of the Board of Directors. If possible, the final step should take place during the season so that some action can be taken to attempt to resolve the problem. 

Uniform Amnesty



Do you have old soccer uniforms in hidden in your basement or closets? All is forgiven!!!! You can drop them off in an unmarked bag at either

2610 Rosebery Ave or 1248 Jefferson Ave., before September please! The Equipment Room Divas, Julie and Claudia

Calling All Boys U8 Parents

Desperately needed – one (or two) Boys U8 co-ordinator (s).

Job Description – answering questions, liase between teams and pee wee co-ordinator, distributing information.

Call Arlene Peniuk at 926-5965

Cool Soccer Parents Know Where to Go and What to Wear

by: John Bowen

Who amongst us hasn't wheeled frantically around the endless Crescents and Places of an unfamiliar suburb, in the pouring rain, looking for THE FIELD to find the THE GAME. I've done it more times than I care to admit.

If it is not bad enough to feel like an idiot while you scramble through the glove compartment looking for someone, anyone's cell number, your composure will be further tested by repeated "why didn't you's" from the back seat.

What's the answer? You can minimize the stress of soccer parenthood by staying informed.

Your best source of relevant soccer information is your son's or daughter's coach and manager. Different coaches and managers have different preferred ways of

Are you serious about soccer? Do you have what it takes to join WWSA?

After a very successful first year, the WWSA would like to announce its 2002/03 Program. The goal of the academy is to provide **committed** players with the opportunity to become the best they can be. Those players who can show the **commitment** and the right **attitude** will truly benefit from such a program. Players may try out and be subsequently invited into the academy (limited space available).

The WWSA will begin September 6th, 2002. The program will consist of 4 x 1.5hr training sessions that will be held every week for ten months (September to June).

SESSION #1 - Sept to Dec (15 weeks)

U11 Boys and Girls - Fridays from 3:30-5:00pm at Ambleside H
U12 Boys and Girls - Fridays from 5:30-7:00pm at Ambleside H
U13 Boys and Girls - Saturdays from 9:00-10:30am at Rockridge H.S. (grass)

SESSION #2 - Jan to Mar (10 weeks)

U11 Boys and Girls - Fridays from 3:30-5:00pm at Ambleside H
U12 Boys and Girls - Fridays from 5:30-7:00pm at Ambleside H
U13 Boys and Girls - Saturdays from 9:00-10:30am at Rockridge H.S. (grass)

SESSION #3 - Mar to Jun (13 weeks)

U11 Boys and Girls - Fridays from 3:30-5:00pm at Ambleside H
U12 Boys and Girls - Fridays from 5:30-7:00pm at Ambleside H
U13 Boys and Girls - Saturdays from 9:00-10:30am at Rockridge H.S. (grass)

Cost of WWSA Program

\$100 initial registration fee (Uniforms, Admin. and Games)
\$ 90 per month (to be paid at the start of each month)
(10% discount if you submit 10 post dated cheques)

Please call Jamshid "Jammer" Afshar for any questions at 604-926-5347 or e-mail: Jafshar@shaw.ca

communicating with players and their parents. Some email, some phone, some just mumble after games and practices. Whatever the way, adapt to it. Most of the important information will come from them.

If you are fortunate, you will be kept reliably informed about where games are, what to wear, whose turn it is to bring oranges and so on. Your coach or manager should issue you with a game schedule, the names and phone numbers of other players/parents and other basic information. He or she will also try to warn you about field changes, discuss tournament options and countless other issues. If you are not getting information from the coach or manager, call the

coordinator for your player's age group.


As a team manager who has mis-directed many a parent, I can tell you it is wise not to rely on your coach or manager for everything. They get lost too. Here are some backup tips.


1. Keep the following items in your car: A current "Deluxe Street Atlas of Greater Vancouver & Fraser Valley", a team list with home and cell phone numbers of the coach, manager and parents, copy of the game schedule, your cell phone, and a pen and paper. If you have room, a white T shirt in a sealed bag may save the day if you find your team needs to change shirts.
2. Before leaving for your game call the field line to be find out if you are

playing on grass or gravel. The number is 604-926-6863 for West Vancouver fields, and 604-983-6444 loc.5033 for North Vancouver fields. Always allow time for the possibility that a field will be hard to find or there will be a shortage of parking.

3. Bookmark and regularly check West Vancouver Soccer Club's website at www.westvansoccer.com. It is a good source of information on local soccer and an entry point to other soccer sites. There you will find names, phone numbers and email addresses of the registrar, coordinators, ref. assignors and other people it is good to know. You will also find out about soccer camps, coaching clinics, try-outs, registration information, field locations and much more. Another site I use repeatedly is www.youthsoccerbc.com. It has information about other soccer clubs in BC, upcoming tournaments, field locations and links to other useful sites.
4. It used to be difficult to find a suitable soccer camp for players at different levels and ages. Now soccer camps are offered by many good coaches throughout the year, suited to soccer players of all levels and ages. Start by checking WVSC's website at www.westvansoccer.com for various offerings at the West Vancouver Soccer Academy.

Jammer, the club coach offers excellent camps for everyone. You may also want to check Carl Valentine's the North Shore Soccer Development Centre www.nssdc.net, Saibo Talic's European Football School www.saibosoccer.com and Roman Tulis European Soccer School of Excellence, www.romantulis.com, to mention a few.

5. Read and save *Sidelines*, West Vancouver Soccer Club's newsletter for all its members and its main way of  making sure you know about important occurrences in West Vancouver soccer. The Fall issue in particular, contains information you will need throughout the season.


A plugged-in soccer parent is a cool parent, in both senses of the word. It takes less time to stay informed than to correct for something missed. Also, you will impress the coach, manager and other parents with your knowledge and ability to guide others. Who knows, you may even escape becoming the dumbest parent in West Vancouver in the eyes of your player when he or she becomes a teen. 


Soccer's Unsung Heroes

By Marsha Walden

Imagine being the Manager of Human Resources, Logistics Coordinator, Complaints Department, Mail Room Clerk, Chief Fundraiser, Telephone Polster, Email Master and Party Planner of an organization – all at once! Well, that pretty much fits the job description of one of the most thankless jobs in the sports world: Team Manager. Considering the big workload and lack of recognition, it's a wonder anyone volunteers for this crucial position.

Luckily, there are some brave and selfless souls out there who have enough energy and love of the game to take on this task on behalf of their child's team. They are soccer's real heroes....deep in the trenches, with no hope of glory.

So, next time you get a last-minute phone call with field changes or a friendly tap on the shoulder reminding you that it's your turn to bring the oranges next game, think about the Team Manager who worries over all this stuff....and say a big, big thank you! 

@@@ To All WV Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers, I still do not have current, legible email addresses for many of you. As email is to be the main means by which the Club is going to keep coaches and managers informed this season, it is essential that you send me your email address ASAP and indicate what team, age group, gender, level etc. you are coach or manager of. It would be useful if your team manager could send me all the coach/manager email addresses for your team. Send them to johnbowen@attcanada.net. Thank you, John 

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A League Of Their Own

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the April 19th 2001 edition of The Economist magazine. It gives an interesting insight into how far women's soccer has come on this continent and suggests what might lie ahead.

The chants of the crowd were a good two octaves higher than you might expect at a big American sporting event; and the eventual score, 1-0, was not the TV-viewer's dream. All the same, the first professional women's soccer game in the United States, between the Washington Freedom and the Bay Area CyberRays, attracted a crowd of 35,000 to RFK stadium. Despite a slightly dire match, it augured well for the sport.

Anybody who has ever visited a park in suburban America can see the potential of the game: the "soccer mom", hauling her daughters off to matches in her sport-utility vehicle, has become a fixture of life. Yet, as a commercial proposition, women's soccer dangerously combines two almost-rans of American professional sports: soccer (after five years, the male league is still a patchy affair), and women's team sports (only women's basketball seems to draw the crowds—and it still lags behind the male equivalent).

The new Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) is building its hopes on the 1999 women's World Cup. That competition was both played in and won by the United States. The final was watched by 40m viewers, more than tuned in to watch the men's basketball and ice-hockey championships that year. It also produced two undoubted stars: Brandi Chastain, who not only scored the winning goal in the final but also decided to pull off her jersey as a way of celebrating; and Mia Hamm, a telegenic striker, who

now pops up in commercials for everything from sports gear to milk.

The posters for the game in Washington shrewdly focused on "Mia v Brandi". Ms Hamm plays for the Freedom, Ms Chastain for the CyberRays. The 20 members of the national squad have been divided among eight teams, based in soccer-friendly cities like New York, Washington, DC, and Atlanta.

That said, the WUSA is generally eschewing the mainly male, largely Latino fan base of male soccer. As with the women's World Cup, it is focusing on grassroots ticket campaigns, bringing in families, schools and the growing numbers of amateur senior players. The Washington Area Women's Soccer League, one of three amateur women's leagues around the District



of Columbia, has grown vastly in the past two years; its 550 regular players are now evangelists for the new professional league.

The first plans are modest. WUSA is hoping for average attendances of about 7,000 people per game (roughly half what the male game gets). Ticket prices are being kept below \$15. Most of the \$64m that will finance the first five years of the league has come from a group of cable-TV operators. Most games are shown live on CNN's sports channel.

The longer-run aim is to imitate women's tennis, which attracts men as well as women, partly because the female version is more interestingly skilful. That would be heresy in Manchester, Turin or Barcelona. But America's soccer women do seem

better than its men, who have never got further than the first round of their World Cup. And the stars tend to follow the script. Just when the first game looked like being scoreless, up popped Brandi to foul Mia. The result: a penalty kick that led to the game's only goal. ⚽

Soccer in W.V. Growing

By John Bowen

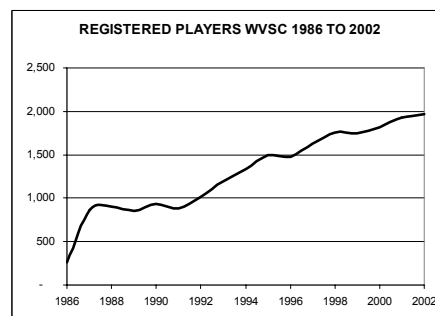
West Vancouver's total population count is currently less than 42,000. The population growth rate was a slow 1.3% for the five years between the 1996 Census and 2001 Census. By comparison, the whole of Greater Vancouver grew by 8.5% during the same five years. The story was much the same for the preceding five years. West Vancouver is not growing much compared to other parts of the Lower Mainland.

And we are not getting any younger. The median age of West Vancouver's population is about 41, compared to about 37 for Greater Vancouver.

When one considers the slow rate of population growth and rapid population aging in West Vancouver, it is remarkable how much youth soccer has grown in our club. In 1986, West Vancouver Soccer Club had only 265 players.

By 1991 membership had increased to 882 players.

In 1996, there were 1,479 registered players in WVSC and in 2001 there were 1,927 players. There were 1,966 in 2002.



While West Vancouver's population grew at only 1.3% between 1996 and 2001, WVSC's membership grew by over 30% during the same period. ⚽

Your Club Needs You!

By John Bowen

At the Annual General Meeting on May 13, 2002, directors were elected to the WVSC board. With a few exceptions, the people who got elected were the same people who got elected last year. Why is that?

The incumbents did not win because they had large campaign budgets, were connected to powerful organizations, or were media savvy. They got elected because they are committed to soccer in West Vancouver, are capable volunteers and are willing to invest some of their spare time.

We are all called upon to do some community work, whether it is for a church, a school, a club or whatever. We usually do it when our families are most involved with that organization. Soccer clubs are run, by and large, by parents of players for some of the time that their kids are into soccer. As kids move on, along with their parents, we need to replenish the volunteer pool.

While we have elected most directors for the upcoming season, we still have vacancies there and for numerous other functions.


We need coaches, managers, coordinators and other positions for which no election is necessary. If your son or daughter loves soccer and you can find the time, please volunteer for one of our vacancies.

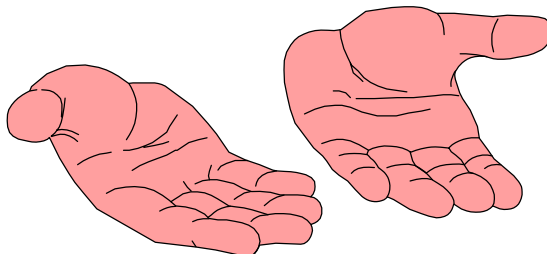
Even if you have no soccer experience, you will undoubtedly have skills that can be put to good use. If your coach is doing all the paperwork, offer to be team manager. Good coaching is made better by being able to focus on soccer alone.

If you have a team manager, offer him or her some assistance. It will be welcome. If you are ready to consider more than that, email me at johnbowen@attcanada.net and I'll




WEST VANCOUVER SOCCER CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2002-2003 elected at AGM May 13, 2002		
EXECUTIVES		
Ken Savage	Home 985-5338 Ken_Savage@shaw.ca	-President
Les Meszaros	Home 921-7038 ljm@attcanada.net	-Vice President, Player/Coach Development -Nominating Cttee
Michael Kaye	Home 922-2199 Michaelkaye@shaw.ca	-Treasurer
Linda Vaartnou	Home 926-1645 lschneider@telus.net	-Secretary
Julie Walker	Home 922-4261 juliewalker@shaw.ca	-Registrar -4 District Rep - Nominating Cttee
Rob Inman	Home 922-6218 inman.6218@shaw.ca	-Div Boys Coordinator
Peggy Bradshaw	Home 922-5181 pabradshaw@shaw.ca	-Div Girls Coordinator
Bev Leader	Home 921-9876 jardineleader@shaw.ca	-Pee wee Girls Coordinator
		-Pee wee Boys Coordinator
DIRECTORS		
John Bowen	Home 922-6772 johnbowen@attcanada.net	-Tryout Coordinator -Sidelines Editor -Sidelines for Coaches
Jodi Dean (On leave)	Home 926-6169 jodidean@excite.com	-Senior Women's Coordinator
Eric Keller	Home 926-6258 ekeller@telus.net	-Referee-in-Chief
Tom Fetterley	Home 922-4262 Tom.Fetterley@telus.com	-Equipment & Clubhouse
Michael Findlay	Home 926-1406 twotouch@shaw.ca	- Senior Men's Coordinator
Bob Houston	Home 988-1382 rhouston@shaw.ca	-Director at Large
Rob Lennox	Soccer Line 922-6001 roblennox@shaw.ca	-Past President -Ombudsman
Jan Moger	Home 926-4096 jamoger@shaw.ca	-Pee wee Ref Assignor -Lost & Found
Bruce Rothdram	Home 925-2511 lionsgate@telus.net	-Tournament Coordinator -Girls U13 Coordinator
Bill Sparling	Home 922-4544 wsparling@shaw.ca	- Player/Coaching Development
Claudia Sparling	Home 922-4544 wsparling@shaw.ca	-Fields Coordinator
Mark Steven	Home 913-2496 marksteven@marksteven.com	-Risk Management

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Schedule of Start Up Information

TEAMS & COORDINATOR	START UP DATE 	COACHING CLINICS			UNIFORM EXCHANGE
		DATE	TIME	PLACE	Managers or Coaches Only
Under 7 Boys Ken Savage Ken_Savage@shaw.ca	Sept. 16 Practice Mon. evenings Games Saturday- see article in this issue for times.				
Under 7 Girls Christine Brownlee 604-913-0820	Sept. 16 Games Saturday-see article in this issue for times.				
Under 8 Boys Ken Savage Ken_Savage@shaw.ca	Sept. 16 Games Saturday Interlock with North Van	Sept. 7- clinic Sept. 11-meeting	1:00-2:00 p.m. 6:00 pm	Ambleside 'E' Clubhouse	Sept. 16, 17 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Under 8 Girls Bev Stanwood 604-922-7602	Sept. 16 Games Saturday Interlock with North Van	Sept. 7- clinic Sept. 12-meeting	1:00-2:00 p.m. 6:00 pm	Ambleside 'E' Clubhouse	Sept. 16, 17 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Under 9 Boys Arlene Penuk 604-926-5965	Sept. 16 Games Saturday Interlock with North Van	Sept. 7- clinic Sept. 11-meeting	1:00-2:00 p.m. 7:00 pm	Ambleside 'E' Clubhouse	Sept. 16, 17 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Under 9 Girls Leslie Wynuck 604-922-5530	Sept. 16 Games Saturday Interlock with North Van	Sept. 7- clinic Sept. 12-meeting	1:00-2:00 p.m. 7:00 pm	Ambleside 'E' Clubhouse	Sept. 16, 17 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Under 10 Boys Wendy Thuel 604-921-9757	Sept. 16 Games Saturday Interlock with North Van	Sept. 7- clinic Sept. 11-meeting	2:00-3:00 p.m. 8:00 pm	Ambleside 'E' Clubhouse	Sept. 16, 17 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Under 10 Girls Sue Golder 604-925-2262	Sept. 15 Games Saturday Interlock with North Van	Sept. 7- clinic Sept. 12-meeting	2:00-3:00 p.m. 8:00 pm	Ambleside 'E' Clubhouse	Sept. 16, 17 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Divisional Boys U11-U18 Rob Inman 604-922-6218	Gold, Silver, Bronze Sept. 6, 7 or 8	Sept. 4-meeting See pages 5 & 6 or visit our web site at www.westvansoccer.com for upcoming coaching clinics	7:00 pm U11's 8:00 pm U12-U18	Clubhouse	See Letter to Coaches
Divisional Girls U11 Shurley Kay 604-926-0595 U12 Peggy Bradshaw 604-922-5181 U13 Bruce Rothdram 604-925-2511 U14-U18 Peggy Bradshaw 604-922-5181	Gold, Silver A, Silver B Sept. 7 or 8 	Sept. 5-meeting See pages 5 & 6 or visit our web site at www.westvansoccer.com for upcoming coaching clinics	7:00 pm U11's 8:00 pm U12-U18 	Clubhouse	See Letter to Coaches

The dates and times of the above activities are subject to change. Please check with the co-ordinator.

**BCSA'S New
President writes to
WVSC Members**

Editor's Note: About a month ago, the BC Soccer Association elected a new Board and a new President. I called Laurel Pokoyski (new President) and asked her to introduce herself to us and to talk a little about women's participation in soccer in BC and Canada, as background to the upcoming FIFA U19 Women's games in Burnaby this month. Laurel wrote...

Hi John.

As we discussed, I am the second female President of the BCSA during its long history. Ms. Leeta Sokalski, who recently left the Board and a Life Member of the Association, served as President 1987 to 1990.

I have been involved in soccer for 20 years and served on the BC Youth Board of Directors from 1987 - 1997. I took a year away from soccer and 1998 was elected to the BCSA Board. I either chaired or served on a every committee during the years I have involved. In 2001 I was elected as Vice-President Senior responsible for senior programs and this year ran for the vacancy created when Larry Diehl stood down. I also sit on the CSA Competitions Committee as the BC representative.

When I thanked the membership for electing me as their President, I acknowledged my predecessors service and those that have gone before me.

It was an honour to be elected and I will work hard to meet the memberships expectations.

There have been many changes on the Board in the past year. With the exception of the new 1st VP and VP Youth, the board is relatively new. If I bring anything to the position, it is my experience and knowledge with soccer in the province and at the national level. I am hope my experience will help the incoming directors and whoever succeeds me. The biggest thing I will miss is the opportunity to help the players, coaches and others needing assistance as my time will be limited due to the demands of the position. This is the main reason I have stayed involved for so long.

I now have granddaughter just starting out in mini soccer and will get a chance to go back to the grassroots where I started with my sons.

Because you are doing something on the FIFA Under 19 competition, the following is a little information for you.

- Female Youth. National %age of players is 34% of all youth players. our players)
- Female Senior National %age is 33% of all senior players.
- In BC our female players represent 36% of all youth and 33% of all senior registrants.
- BC has the 3rd highest number of female players, with Ontario and Quebec ahead of us.

- Female players number continue to increase nationally from a high in 1997 at 21% and have levelled off between 7% and 8% per year since then. We currently have 288,000 females playing soccer in the country.

Hope the above helps. I will copy you with the demographics from the CSA and have them sent to you. Maybe you can use them for a future article.

Regards,
Laurel 

Attention all U13 Players!
How would you like to have fun, increase your soccer skills and earn money too? You can do this by becoming a REFEREE for Pee Wee Soccer with the West Vancouver Soccer Club. You will be paid \$10 per game. Register for a Youth Soccer Referee Clinic (you must be 12 years old)

Location: All clinics are held at Delbrook Recreation Centre (Oak Room)

Dates: August 22 and 23 from 9:00-1.00 p.m. Course #68309 and August 27-28 from -1.00 p.m. Course #68310

Fee: \$30 The fee will be refunded by the West Vancouver Soccer Club on successful completion of the season.

Call: 604-987-7529 to register (North Vancouver Recreation Commission), or Jan Moger 604-926-4096 for details.



WEST VANCOUVER SOCCER CLUB
P.O. Box 91172
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3N8

