



October 29, 2008

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2008-2009

This has been an extremely exciting year for soccer in the Prince Albert District – indeed for soccer in Saskatchewan. In April, the fundraising campaign took off to “kick off” the journey towards the development of the new soccer Centre in Prince Albert. What followed was an extraordinary show of community spirit – a “can do” response from our civic leaders, businesses, professionals, soccer families and citizens of this community. The massive sum of \$5,165,230 was raised in the six weeks of the campaign securing the future of the multi-use facility - the Alfred Jenkins Field House.

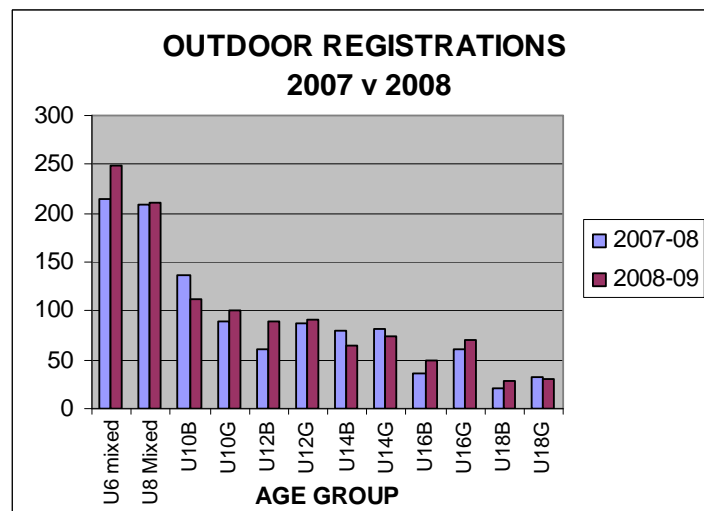
The Prince Albert Youth Soccer Association (or PAYSA for short) is the organization responsible for the administration of youth soccer for the City of Prince Albert and surrounding rural areas. We are a non-profit corporation and our governing body is the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA) and ultimately the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA). PAYSA is controlled by a board of directors who are elected at our Annual General Meeting. In the spirit of continued improvement and in light of the future transition of soccer operations into the Alfred Jenkins Field House and the anticipated expansion in soccer in this District, it was recognized that there is a need to ensure elected board members bring enhanced skills to the administration of Soccer operations in the Prince Albert District. Therefore, a Special General Meeting was held to further develop the process for nominations to the Board (see attached documents). In alignment with the SSA, nominations and candidates credentials are now submitted in writing prior to the Annual General Meeting. The benefits of this are two-fold: first it eliminates the outdated practice of receiving all nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, before the nominee has had a proper opportunity to be educated about specific roles, responsibilities and activities of the Board and its Directors. Secondly, this process allows the voting members to hear the credentials of candidate nominees so they can consider and assess their potential contribution as an executive on the board. I believe this change will help position this organization well in the future.

Another significant development this year has been the revision and re-drafting of the rules and regulations, and developing governing policy documents of the Association. Many problems and misunderstandings arise through poor understanding and/or access to accurate information and lack of documentation of rules and procedures that all members must follow. It is important that we say what we do and we do what we say. As a result of many hours of work by dedicated members of our committees – Technical, Discipline, Referee, the list is long; we have almost completed a series of three manuals which will be open and accessible to the public. The guiding documents will come in three separate manuals: first the constitution, second the rules and regulations and third policies and guidelines. These documents outline in detail all aspects guiding organized soccer in Prince Albert.

REGISTRATION

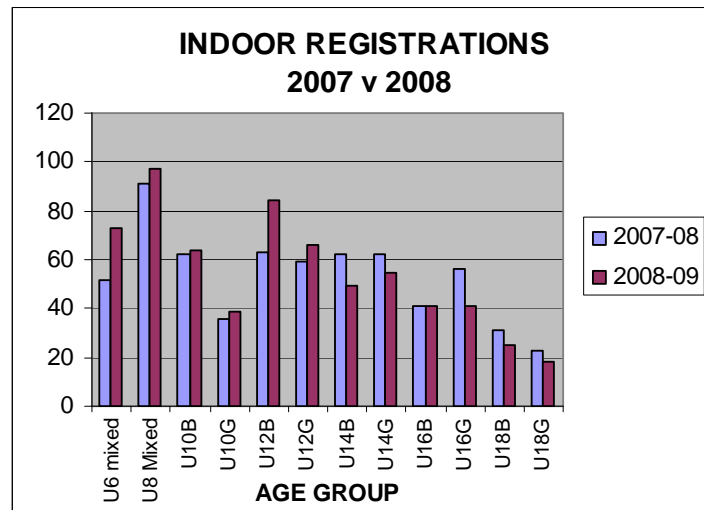
The break between the indoor and outdoor seasons seems so very short. In the 2008 outdoor season there were 1,172 players enrolled in soccer. This figure is up slightly from 2007 in most age categories. The demographics still show numbers of young “grass roots” players indicating great potential for growth.

These kids registered this summer in outdoor played on 132 outdoor house league teams ranging from U6 Mini soccer players up to youth U14/U18. This year the U6 group was split to keep the 4 year olds together in one group and the 5&6 year olds together in another. This worked out very well. It is always a challenge squeezing all the games



into the 7 week house league season which finished on June 24th. There were approximately 640 players registered on 32 out of town teams. Unfortunately despite implementing a performance bond system there were still a number of attendance issues with some teams. PAYSA continues to work towards resolving these issues.

Indoor house league play started on October 14th, after the Thanksgiving weekend. We continued with a split schedule in a continued effort to fit more games into the season. PAYSAs will also continue to split the U6 age group into the 4 year olds and the 5 & 6 year olds. The younger age groups (U6 up to U14) will start play as of October 14th. The older age groups (U16 and U18) will start on November 3rd after the completion of high school soccer. The indoor season will conclude on March 3, 2009, directly followed by the playoffs. We have developed an online Calendar of events to help organize and show a detailed schedule of coaching clinics, referee clinics, indoor tournaments and winter training. This calendar can be seen on our website at www.princealbertsoccer.com; it is also posted on the notice board in the HNOC or in our office.



TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2006, PAYSAs began using Huw Morris to conduct winter training, coaching clinics and goalkeeping clinics to develop our athletes and to become a resource person for our association. In 2007 PAYSAs made this arrangement official in 2007 by formalizing this arrangement by contracting Huw as our Technical Director. Huw continues as our Technical Director and to provide high quality technical expertise to the association. Huw has developed a technical development plan which places a top priority on coach development - "Teaching the teachers". In view of this our top priority for 2008-09 will be the development of a Community Head coach to lead the initiative to train, assess and assist our coaches to ensure high quality consistent instruction and development of our grass roots age groups –typically the U6 to U12.

STAFFING

Late in 2007 our Office Manager, Darcie Doell moved on to pursue other career interests. However, fortunately Mitzi Pytlak has taken on the Herculean task of managing what sometimes might seem to be chaos in our offices. Mitzi has also worked tirelessly helping out with the Ultimate goal Campaign. We have also hired Jennifer Durand to maintain our financial records. I truly appreciate the work they have done to keep the office organized and all the financial records straight. I am confident that the office is in good hands with them.

CELTICS PROGRAM

There were 18 Celtics teams competing in the 2008 outdoor soccer season. The Celtics teams are our competitive teams that travel to tournaments around the province and occasionally out of province and are also our representative teams at provincial competitions. The Celtics program was extremely successful this year - a short visit to the photo gallery on PAYSAs website tells the story! The developmental U10 boy's teams were unbeaten, winning championships in both Swift Current and Regina. The U12 Girls won the championship in Regina. The Provincial Soccer League (PSL) teams were extremely successful this summer. The Div II U16 Boys won Silver at Provincial in Lloydminster. The PSL regular season finished, with the finals played August 23-24. Congratulations to the U14 Boys and U16 Girls teams. Both teams went on to win the PSL Championship finals earning the right to represent Saskatchewan at Nationals. The U14 boys placed seventh in their National championship played in Prince Edward Island, and the U16 Girls placed sixth in Nova Scotia. I am immensely proud of the efforts of all these athletes. This is a massive achievement for players in this District: a tribute to the dedication and hard work of our Technical personnel, coaches, support staff and the players. The future is very bright for Prince Albert soccer.

REFEREES

I would like to acknowledge the referee mentorship program that was started in 2007 and continues this year. This program has really helped develop our beginner referees and provided feedback to improve all of our referees. I feel confident that Steven Pollock and Randy Whitter will continue to develop and improve this program with assistance from our assigner Jinus Makari. There is however at the moment a severe lack of qualified referees. We are actively seeking kids and adults alike to come forward and train as referees.

In closing, volunteering is a characteristic for which the people of Saskatchewan are well known, across Canada. PAYSA is an organization run entirely by volunteers. The association and indeed youth soccer in this district depends on the continued commitment, contribution and hard work of all our volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of all these volunteers, in particular our Board of Directors, coaches, managers, referees, age group coordinators and all those who donate so much of their time serving on our various committees. Their work and commitment is vital in delivering what I believe is a high quality soccer program for all youth soccer players in our District.

Sincerely,



Rory McIntosh
President