

Greetings HSC players and parents:

"The Hempfield Soccer Club serves all youth in the community by providing a positive sports experience, where they will develop as persons and players while enhancing their social, emotional and physical well being in an environment of inclusiveness and sportsmanship."

As 2007 draws to a close, I hope that you can look back at the season past and say that your soccer club experience matched that of the above mission statement.

I write you today to share some things accomplished, some things happening now, and some things to come in 2008. Right away, I share great news that Seamus Donnelly, director of coaching for your club, has been given full release from his physicians for injuries sustained in his accident this past spring. Seamus is "back on the pitch" with players and teaching the world's most beautiful game.

Our fall rec program under the leadership of Patty Lawrence, Doug Shelly and Victor Desantis along with dozens of fine dedicated coaches and players enjoyed another wonderful season. What you may not know is that Hempfield Soccer Club has organized a league for our U10 boy's rec players involving several other clubs. Our boys and girls teams of all ages competed in end of season tournaments and the U12 boys closed their season with a one day tournament in the new soccer quad.

For the winter, the rec program has again organized an in-house league at the Lanco Fieldhouse. More than 250 players ages U10-U14, both boys and girls are competing. Spring Rec registration will go online January 7th.

If you've any questions about registration, please direct them to Megan Connell, registrar. Her contact information is available on the Hempfield Soccer Club website.

Beginning this past fall, and continuing this winter at is the HSC Pre-K Indoor Program directed by Academy Director, Gary Ross(Rossi). This program is designed for our youngest players.

The Fall Classic - WOW. This event continues to be one of the finest soccer events held on the East Coast. 530 teams, more than 9,000 players from 9 states descended on PA to compete this year. Tournament Director Sarah Thomas reports that more than 1500 Hempfield Soccer Club parents, coaches, players, local service organizations and high school clubs donate their time to organize and prepare for the Fall Classic. Area businesses from 3 counties donate time, food, money, services and equipment to make this a successful event for our youth players. The event is estimated to generate over 2.5 million dollars for the local economy. Many charitable organizations ride on the coattails of the Fall Classic to help fund their own programs. For any and all who helped - Thank you for your support. I'm sure that you too get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that you contributed. Please note, funds from the fall classic help to run the many programs offered at HSC.

HSC is very pleased to announce that a number of players in your club have been selected to play for their age appropriate ODP (Olympic Development) teams. The ODP program identifies the best players in each state, and provides training and competition vs. players from other regions. Players are selected via a highly competitive tryout process. HSC is very pleased to announce the following players and their selection.

Rhea Sullivan - HSC Red U12 Devils
Emily Lanser - HSC U13 Furey
Lauren Trower - HSC U14 Power
Allison Kornes - HSC U16 Storm
Kathryn Winner - HSC U16 Storm
Rachel Hess - HSC U17 Xtreme

William Gately - HSC U15 Blasters
Adam Gehris - HSC U15 Blasters

In 2008 HSC's rugby program is set to begin its third season. 70 players are expected to participate. The team is open to all boys and girls grade 9 thru 12 with no residency or high school affiliation requirements. Coaches are distinguished alumni from the very successful Men's rugby club "Lancaster Roses. Both the boys and girls teams are coming off excellent sophomore seasons where they played even with such rugby power houses as State College and West Carroll MD. For the coming season, practice begins in January at the Buchanan Gym before moving out side in late February.

New for this season is a spring pre-season trip to Raleigh, NC where both teams will play friendly matches with the Raleigh Vipers Youth Rugby club.

Early in 2008, Herb and Janet Maguire are retiring from their roles as Treasurer, Administrator, and Registrar. Herb and Janet have been tireless in their work to ensure that all the "back end" work was completed so that our kids could enjoy the "front end" which is to play soccer. With over 1600 youth in the club, and the need to manage a 22 acre site, plus the new soccer complex, you can just imagine that this is a massive undertaking. Herb and Janet will be sorely missed in this capacity and have graciously offered to help in the search for replacements and in the transition.

Hempfield Soccer Club continues its evolvement into a committee driven organization, where you, players and parents, have more opportunities to volunteer and carry out the mission. In particular, HSC looks to establish a working finance committee and build on an active marketing/communications committee. You need not have experience in either of these areas, but rather a desire to play a larger role in the development and growth of your soccer club and to have a larger stake in that process. If you are interested, please contact me directly and we can talk.

In closing, I share with you a letter written by the Associate Director of the Milagro House. The Milagro House has been a benefactor of HSC's outreach program. The letter is addressed to Patty Lawrence, HSC's liaison to Milagro.

Dear Patty,

It is that time again to send a gigantic THANK YOU to the Hempfield Soccer Club for all you did this season to allow 5 very special children to play soccer. The obstacles were many; communicating with our moms without email, rides out to Hempfield for families without a car and dysfunctional families that overruled team commitments, just to name a few.

Despite the challenges, the children loved it. For Amerikis, it was her first experience and a beautiful one. She loved every part of the soccer team especially "hi-fiving " the coach, her friend Alex, the cookies and most of all the games. This was Darien's second season and his favorite part was the tournament when he went from field to field and received a medal. He did a little bit of growing up this season. Despite her family's lack of interest, Mercedee loves soccer. She is so energetic and serious; always wanted to arrive early to practice her kicks. Her coach was the greatest. Harold loved his soccer "mates", his mother said, especially little Nate and big Nate. This season he improved his skills and scored some goals. Even losing did not quell his enthusiasm. Jamal had a great season. His team could not have been nicer. They provided rides every week even taking his whole family to the tournament. One family even bought him cough drops and orange juice when he had a cold. The most thoughtful and generous thing was the gift card for Jamal's family! It brought tears to his mother's eyes. This is much more than soccer is supposed to be. Thank you all so very much, and as usual a special thank you to Patty Lawrence for organizing and making sure that the children all had uniforms, cleats, balls, water bottles and practice shirts. You are all incredibly wonderful.

Ellen Culver

Best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas and good health in the New Year.

Loren Good
President
Hempfield Soccer Club