

BCGECSS: Vice President Report – 2023

Soccer operations have been smoother in our second full season since covid cancellations.

Jim Campbell has fully taken on the registrar role, which freed me up to dig into the web project, which stalled during covid. More on that later.

Fields

- Field options were researched in the fall/winter, but as usual most field providers do not make firm bookings until spring. Turf field approvals typically come even later – leading to in-season schedule changes [two this season].
- We followed up on a manager's suggestion to look at Colville field, and it has been a good addition. Adding DND, we now deal with 8 different field partners.
- We also secured Victor Brodeur and School District grass fields [Mt. Doug, Monterey, Claremont and Royal Oak] for April thru June, and were able to get mostly turf from late June thru July [Braefoot, Finlayson and UVic].
- Grass field conditions and lining were mixed again this year. Claremont, Colville and Victor Brodeur were good, and could have been used into July. Mt Doug, Monterey and Royal Oak were less than ideal, and we moved to turf as soon as it became available
- The new Vic High turf will open this fall and we have expressed interest for next year. Finlayson should also be available earlier in 2024. Using these will increase costs.

Teams and Schedules

- 18 teams returned in 2023, with Reds bolstered by a group that was planning to enter a team.
- The over-40s scrimmage, which was very successful in 2019, remains smaller since covid and merged with an over-48 men's scrimmage. They used the new Finlayson half field, consistently had 20+ attending and paid their own field costs.
- The windup event has moved earlier to July 29th [to secure a date at JDF] and retains the 2022 modified format of 3 games of 7-aside on 1 day. 14 teams are participating.
- A number of teams have struggled for numbers again this year, and it has been encouraging to see a high level of cooperation in finding players when needed.

Website Project

- After starting and stopping with several contractors during covid, a project was begun in March to modernize the website. A team including me, the webmaster and a programmer worked closely for 3 months, meeting weekly and improving a number of areas of the website:

- New scheduling software was developed, allowing teams to express a preference for playing days, and aiming to fairly allocate access to each field. As far as we aware, no commercial software does this.
 - New player registration system, allowing either players or managers to register a player, and ensuring managers can approve each player registering. Allows direct upload to BCSCA format, saving considerable time for the registrar.
 - New player pool for players looking for a team – allowing managers to directly add players to their roster. There are some 30 players in the pool.
 - New referee reports, automatically uploading red and yellow card incidents, and notifying the head ref that a review is needed, as well as recording votes for Friendliest Team and Classiest Players
- This work went well, with a few glitches, but was more complex [and expensive] than anticipated. Making the schedule work across a wider range of conditions [different fields, numbers of teams, weeks in the season] will require more work. We do not have funds to continue until new revenue is obtained. This will be an important decision for 2024.

Hu

Hu Wallis
Vice President
July 29, 2023