

## **BCGESS: Vice President Report – 2024**

### **BC Soccer and Liability Insurance**

- Following last year's AGM direction and subsequent consultation with teams, we withdrew from BC Soccer.
- This year, we arranged insurance with the same provider as South Vancouver Island Classics Soccer Association [another independent league] – at savings of several thousand dollars. All field providers require liability insurance as a condition of rental.

### **Fields**

- Field options were researched in the fall/winter, but 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]. Vic High bookings started latest of all.
- We secured Victor Brodeur, Colville and Claremont grass fields which were in good condition, and were also able to get turf from late June thru July [Finlayson and UVic, and later Vic High]. Braefoot was under construction this year but will likely be available in 2025.
- We were able to get time at the JDF Velodrome in the early season and dropped Mt Doug and Monterey from our plans. Unfortunately the time was 8:30, which not everyone liked.
- The Velodrome drove higher costs than anticipated – a factor in whether to repeat in 2025.

### **Teams and Schedules**

- 17 teams returned in 2023 - we lost Reds, which was an original 6 team from before 1980.
- The over-40s scrimmage, which was very successful in 2019, remains smaller since Covid and merged with an over-49 men's scrimmage. They used the new Finlayson half field, consistently had 20+ attending and paid their own field costs.
- Last year, the windup event was moved earlier to July 29<sup>th</sup> – the earlier finish was popular. This year, that weekend was Turf Burn, and we returned to a later windup August 10<sup>th</sup>. Due to a booking glitch, we have shortened the event from 3 games of 7-aside on 1 day to 2 games later in the day. 14 teams are participating, as in 2023.
- 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**

- After last year's website development work, we had hoped for a smooth start with the website. Unfortunately we were hit with two hacking events that emptied our databases – one local and one from a Turkish hacking collective.
- Our web-hosting company was able to get us back online quickly, and our former webmaster Christina Wheeler came out of retirement to help improve security and get our season started.

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- Manny Rodrigues - one of the refs [also a doc at the Cancer Centre] helped us further improve our scheduling software, allowing teams to express a preference for playing days, and aiming to fairly allocate access to each field. As far as we are aware, no commercial software does this.
- Our player registration system worked well, and although we no longer need to submit our registration data to BC Soccer, our insurance provider requires us to have it available.

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Hu Wallis

Vice President

September 9, 2024