

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF WEST SEATTLE SOCCER CLUB

West Seattle Soccer Club is 55 years old this year and is providing soccer opportunities to nearly one out of every five elementary school students in our community. Still, WSSC is facing significant challenges in administration and coaching.

GOVERNANCE:

WSSC is governed by a twelve-person volunteer Board of Officers and Commissioners. Terms are two years; half the board is elected each year by vote of WSSC's membership. Your Outgoing 2022 board was:

President: Chip Goss

VP Administration: Jesse Russell

VP Players:

VP Coaches: Erich Wiener

Treasurer: Curtis Allan

Secretary: Jamie Foulk

Commissioners:

Brett Conway

Pushpa Larsen

Mick O'Byrne

Tracy Grant

Claire Brannan

After two terms, I am stepping down from the Presidency and three (3) commissioners recently resigned. Typically, there are six positions up for election each year for two year terms. Because of vacancies, there are eight positions up for election on the 2023 Annual General Meeting Ballot: those are President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Players, Secretary, and four (4) Commissioner positions.

The Board meets the second Monday of each month, currently via Zoom. Minutes of all meetings are available on the WSSC website.

FINANCES:

WSSC's financial position remains strong. In 2022 WSSC brought in \$361,336.24 in registration fees and \$6,952.94 in donations from our generous supporters. Our significant expenses were: equipment costs \$100,752.93, fields \$89,233.44, referee fees \$36,225.00, WYS and HSA fees \$15,975.25, Coaches' support \$19,669.72, and administrative support \$17,367.35. Ongoing expenses such as bank fees, gear storage locker rental, PO Box rental, insurance, annual goal maintenance and repair, were paid as usual. WSSC had a net positive revenue of \$75,101.53 for 2022. WSSC ended 2021 with a positive balance of \$418,091.90 (of which approximately \$279,612.75 is set aside for field development). Annual accounting information for WSSC is available for review by membership upon request. WSSC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Washington State.

MEMBER SERVICES:

West Seattle Soccer Club provided recreational soccer for 2,653 players and their families in 2022. We were blessed with 390 coaches over our Spring and Fall seasons.

Our CoEd program with the UK International Soccer Master Coaches for U6/U7 divisions served 457 players in the Spring and 535 players in the Fall. This Spring we expect to have 55 teams.

Our “House League” U8 through U12 is robust, with our Boys U11 team with Coaches Dan Carew and Turner Angell taking the Rec Cup Championship.

Our U13 and older teams were generally successful in the South Sound United League and our Boys U19 Bulldogs with Coach Jeff Bradley performed well in the North Puget Sound League.

We expanded our partnership with UK International Soccer to provide additional coaching opportunities to our older teams during the week. The program was well received and we are able to offer to our girls teams this Spring UK Coach run practices on Saturday afternoons.

Due to the incredible talent and hard work of our Vice President of Coaches, Erich Wiener, our Coach Support program is amazing!. We provided our coaches with membership to United Soccer Coaches where resources abound. Erich is always available to assist coaches with issues and direct them to appropriate information. With Covid nearly past, Erich will likely return to weekly in person coach socials that should not be missed.

Our fields are a challenge. With the incredibly diligent and epic work of Commissioner Mick O’Byrne, Secretary Jamie Foulk and their crews, we have maintained goals, lined fields, and kept the games going. Still, with deteriorating grass, weather, bird damage and inattention from Parks, it is becoming harder and harder to provide good conditioned fields throughout the season.

HIGHLINE SOCCER ASSOCIATION:

WSSC is a member of the Highline Soccer Association which also includes the Highline Soccer Club. It is through the HSA that WSSC provides players with the opportunity of advancement to more skilled and competitive Select and Premier leagues. HSA launched the HSA Select Program in 2015 and it has achieved tremendous success. The program provides a select tier of instruction and play for members of the communities served by HSA. Teams are led by volunteer coaches and the youngest teams are formed at U-11. The Boys U18 HSA Select team won the Founders Cup championship this year. Highline

Premier FC (HPFC) is the highest competitive level within Highline Soccer Association, and a proud sister club to WSSC, HSC and HSA Select.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

WSSC faces important challenges going forward. The Board vacancies are unsustainable and the Club may need to consider employing an administrator or contracting with an outside vendor to accomplish some of the work that needs to be done. WSSC also should evaluate its league affiliation and consider an opportunity to return to the Seattle Youth Soccer Association.

Fundamentally, WSSC needs better community engagement. Most years we survey our fall membership, but only a small fraction respond. We are blessed that the results are overwhelmingly positive and complaints are isolated. To make the best decisions for our community, we need more input.

Coaches are the cornerstone of our program and we cannot provide our services without volunteer coaches. Coaches are also the conduit to parents and players. WSSC will flourish and thrive when we can provide the program that our community wants, and for that we need to seek out and listen to our community. Together, we can give the best soccer experience to our stakeholders in West Seattle.

With gratitude to all who contribute to make WSSC so successful, here's to a wonderful 2023.

March 30, 2023

West Seattle Soccer Club Board