

# HILLWOOD FOOTNOTES NEWSLETTER

**From the desk of the Hillwood Club President....**

4/30/12

SYSA's Spring REC soccer league is in full swing and again. I just wanted to remind families that, SYSA has complete control of this league. It is offered to all players of all ages in all Clubs. Teams are formed at the Association level by individual coaches who are allowed to ask players from all teams to join them to form new teams of players who show interest and are available to play. And while the spirit of the League was for kids to just play, competition has come to a forefront, so I humbly ask that as adults we all remember that the game is for the kids, and let us try to just enjoy the event as it should be an enjoyable learning experience!

And again, please remember, a spring soccer team does not in any way reflect your fall season team's roster. Those rosters are assigned by our Club registrar's at each age level. Once the spring season is over, that roster is no longer in affect.

***And while I have your attention....please remember: Dogs Aren't Allowed on Soccer Fields!***

Most of us love dogs, but they don't belong on soccer fields. There are lots of reasons for this: damage to the field, fouling the surface, risk of infections to players, nuisance and distraction to participants. But the main reason SYSA reminds you to leave your dog at home is that [both Seattle and Shoreline municipal codes prohibit dogs on playfields.](#) Please respect the law and keep your dog off the soccer fields our kids play on. Thank you!

Many thanks and as always please remember; Hillwood soccer is just for kicks!

*D.J. Yasui, President, Hillwood Soccer Club*

Contact e-mail: [hillwoodsoccer@yahoo.com](mailto:hillwoodsoccer@yahoo.com)

## Player's Pitch

(Parents and players)

### **Fall Registration - Already????**

Before spring fever leads you too far down the road of long reads and lazy afternoons (or is that just my dream?) remember to line your kids up for fall soccer. Registration for returning players begins May 10th and new players on the 25th. Keep in mind, if you take advantage of early registration, not only will you save on late fees, but your child has the best chance of being placed back on the same team.

### **Registration Fees**

Costs for field rental are rising! The price of securing turf for practices and games has gone up, but Hillwood registration fees will remain the same for one more year. The club will absorb the additional cost for the 2012 season, but come fall, 2013, you'll notice an increase in registration rates. Utilizing local fields costs SYSA a whopping \$300,000 per year!

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### **Spring Soccer**

The spring soccer season is in full swing. Games began April 1st and will continue through June 17th. If you have any questions see SYSA's website. Have a great season!

[sysa.org/SpringSoccer](http://sysa.org/SpringSoccer)

### **Hone Your Skills - Player Development Opportunities**

If you happened to drive by the Shoreline Pool on a recent Friday night, you may have wondered what the buzzing blurs of color out on the field were. April 20th was the conclusion of six, player development sessions for local soccer kids. One hundred and twenty, eight to twelve year olds gathered on the fields, paying specific attention to ball mastery, precision passing, dribbling and other important foot skills. Players of similar ages were grouped in pods of ten kids per coach. The time was focused and well spent with no single player cooling their heels for long.

Thank you to all who participated and to Seattle United for organizing the clinic. Fall teams everywhere will benefit from time well spent.

# Camps

## Spring

In an active pocket of Shoreline, with splashing from the nearby pool and the hollow thud of rackets meeting tennis balls in the air, English accents could be overheard shouting encouragement - "Fantastic!", "Keep the ball moving", "find your mate!" Thus began this year's spring soccer camp with UK International. Attendees couldn't have hoped for a more beautiful day to start off with. Although the weather dwindled into a soggy story for the remainder of the week, camp began brilliantly with the sun shining and 60 degrees of warmth. With twenty five kids enrolled, the players were divided into two large groups for skill building, camaraderie with new acquaintances and exercise, all with a pinch of culture. Who could ask for anything more!

## Summer

What better way to pass a summer week than being outdoors with friends and a soccer ball? Camps are a great way to spend focused time improving skills and your game for fall. Hillwood Soccer Club continues to work together with UK Elite and UK International to provide camps for strengthening fundamentals and developing technical skills.

If you'd like to experience a cultural exchange and friendship across the pond, consider hosting a coach. You may even be able to attend camp free of charge. Some families have done this, and found friendships that continued well past the conclusion of summer camp. Details for hosting can be found on the camp websites.

## UK International

Choose between three or six hour days. UK International offers two sessions this summer, July 16th - 20th and August 13th-17th. Both sessions will to be held at Hillwood Park.

<http://www.uksocca.com/newhtml/index.html>

## UK Elite

Camp runs from July 23rd to the 27th. Children 5 - 11 years old can participate in the Soccer Day Camp from 9 a.m.-noon. If your child is 9-16 years old, and evening hours are better for you, register for UK Elite's Soccer School which meets from 5 - 8 p.m.

[http://www.ukelite.com/summer\\_programs.jsp](http://www.ukelite.com/summer_programs.jsp)

Or register via email to: [ewanr@ukelite.com](mailto:ewanr@ukelite.com)

For additional Information call (206) 455-1855

## **Overnight Soccer Camp**

Peter Fewing, men's head soccer coach for Seattle University, is holding overnight soccer camps for 9 to 17 year olds this summer. Campers will gather in Northbend for some focused play time. Participants choose between 3 and 5 night sessions. Other activities include swimming, hiking, campfires and more. Register individually or as a team!

Call 888-5474143 or visit the website below

<http://www.peterfewingsoccercamp.com/>

## **Select Soccer**

Rec soccer offers several levels of competition, from bronze up to gold. In addition, there are numerous player development clinics kids can participate in to hone skills and be challenged. If you've explored these options and find your fireball still hankering for more, select soccer may be a good option for you. Seattle United, our areas select soccer league, is now holding tryouts.

<http://www.seattleunited.com>

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Our kids are able to enjoy the great sport of soccer year after year due to the many parents, grandparents and neighbors volunteering their time and skills. Consider joining us in order to continue offering these opportunities through a quality program. If you have a few hours and love soccer, give us a call. You may be surprised how rewarding it is!

If you're interested or have any questions about the following volunteer positions, contact Sue at [hillwoodsoccerclub@hillwoodsoccer.com](mailto:hillwoodsoccerclub@hillwoodsoccer.com)

### **Board Positions Available**

Join a great group of people working to keep neighborhood soccer available to our local kids. The board meets together nine times per year.

### **Registrars**

Many hands make light work. From May to the end of July, extra hands are needed to register kids for the fall season. Work can be done from your home computer and is limited to a few months.

## **Treasurer**

Here's a chance for anyone interested in learning or brushing up on their Quicken skills. Hillwood is in need of a treasurer and our current officer is available to train you. This is a straightforward accounting position which can be done from home.

Contact Pete - [prekeges@att.net](mailto:prekeges@att.net), 206-542-3353

## **Work Party Volunteers**

An organizer is needed for the annual soccer fields' work party. This usually takes place the Saturday morning after school gets out. We will also need trucks to haul soil, and laborers to fill holes as well as shovel and spread dirt.

Let's get our fields in top condition for the upcoming season!

## **Soccer Display at Local Museum**

Have you been around the club for a few years? Do you have any outdated items that could be considered memorabilia? Hillwood Soccer Club has the chance to assemble a display for the local Shoreline Museum. If you have any original jerseys, pictures, trophies etc., let us know. It may be just the piece we need to complete our soccer exhibit.

[hillwoodsoccerclub@hillwoodsoccer.com](mailto:hillwoodsoccerclub@hillwoodsoccer.com)

## **In 1969, A Soccer Club Was Born**

Back in the day when boys ran free, summer days were long and bikes took you everywhere you wanted to go, Hillwood soccer club was conceived. It began in 1969 with a robust group of 5th and 6th grade boys who somehow got it into their heads they wanted to play soccer. The group of eleven boys, one German born coach, and a black and white ball, dubbed themselves the Hillwood Kickers, and a soccer league was born.

Up until that point, most soccer matches had been between ethnic teams such as the Czechs and Germans. That was all about to change as friends grouped together, found dad's or neighbors to coach and christened their teams with fighting names.

Their first season, the Kickers had no official uniforms. Much to every mother's chagrin, the boys suited up in white tee shirts and matching white shorts and hit the turf. These were not the days of tiny black pellets collecting on the rug in the car; it was the height of luxury for the boys to play on actual grass. More often than not the Kickers found themselves on the Lower Woodland Park Fields, taking their spills on the cinder turf. Twin Ponds offered another alternative for the game, sand. But, the boys were tough, taking their falls and bearing their wounds with fortitude.

It wasn't until the Kickers were well into their second season that official uniforms arrived. The first shipment was mistakenly sent out in men's sizes. The team opted to continue with the white, rather than playing in sleeves that hung to their knees. A month later, the exchange was completed and correct sizes arrived. The shirts were retro versions of the yellow and black jerseys Hillwood kids wear today, but all cotton with long sleeves. The team's coach, Bert Lerch, had been inspired by his favorite "football" club, Borussia Dortmund, a German team still playing in the original colors!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kurEG8Iguow>

In 1972 stricter parameters were brought into youth soccer and teams became more tightly regulated. The new changes resulted in the Kickers being split into two groups. The 5th graders continued with the Kickers while the older boys began a new team, the Marauders. Although the boys were sad to be broken up, this was the true beginning of growth for the club. As the years went by, the boys continued to play on separate teams until high school when they reunited under the quiet, gentle coaching of a man called Jumbo McClain.

Those early players have gone on with their lives. Some, like Kevin Bludoff still live in the area. Gregg Lill went on to buy a winery and a few have remained close friends over the years. A couple players, such as Pat Noble, advanced in the sport until they reached the semi-pros. But for Pat, this level of intensity and competition stripped him of his earlier joy for the game. Eventually he took a break from soccer. Today, his love for the game fully restored, he coaches his daughter's select team while his younger son, Sean, plays for Northshore's Rec club.

Who could have known in those early years, how popular youth soccer would become. Today, there are so many local teams, it's difficult to find fields to play on. But thanks to one group of enthusiastic elementary school boys, we now have a thriving soccer club for boys and girls. This year Hillwood Soccer has 87 teams on the roster - all because a few boys followed their passion to take a risk and learn something new.

### Coaches' Corner

#### **Coaches' Meeting**

Plan to meet with us at 7:30 p.m. at the Shoreline Center on June 13th.

#### **Managers' Meeting**

May 9th at 7:30 p.m. at the Shoreline Center there will be a managers' meeting. *It's important we have a representative from each team since information for the fall season will be covered.*

## **Coach Training Opportunities**

There's a lot of focus on player development opportunities, but have you considered signing up for a coaching clinic lately? Continuing education keeps you up to date, inspired and effective. Take a few minutes to look over what's available this year to *help you* help the kids have a top notch experience. There are a number of training sessions to be held in the next few months. Opportunities can be found on SYSA's website. Click on the side bar labeled "For COACHES".

Thank you all for your time and dedication. You're a major factor in our player's interest in and enjoyment of the game. Our hope is they will come to love soccer every bit as much as you do!

<http://www.sysa.org/HomePage>

## **Referees Referendum**

### ***Help Wanted***

Great fall job. Earn good pay while being part of the game you love. Referee positions are available. This is a great way to earn money, stay in shape and give back to your soccer club. See website for clinic dates and details.

<http://www.sysa.org/home.php?layout=1116>

## **Heads Up**

### **August Foot Skills Clinic**

At the end of this summer there will be an affordable opportunity to get players back in the swing of things before fall games begin. Last year's participants paid \$20 for 4 sessions coached by Shoreline's select U18 players. Look for updated prices and details on dates and times in our next newsletter.

## **Shout Outs**

Congratulations to Phil Herold, our new SYSA President! Thank you, Phil, for your commitment to local soccer, the community and most importantly, our kids.

## Your Turn

If you have a story, team building experience, cheer or poem you'd like to share for consideration in the newsletter, please send it to [stoebe2@gmail.com](mailto:stoebe2@gmail.com)

### **More Information:**

Hillwood website - [www.hillwoodsoccer.com](http://www.hillwoodsoccer.com)

Maps to fields - [www.sysa.org](http://www.sysa.org)

Coach and player clinics - [www.sysa.org](http://www.sysa.org)

Tournaments - <http://www.wsysa.com/>

Referee clinics - <http://www.wasrc.org/>

## **Hillwood Soccer Club**

**Investing in our kids, creating memories  
and cultivating a love for the**

**"beautiful game"!**