



PRESIDENTS REPORT.

Now that the summer season is over I'd like to bring everybody up to date with what's been going on over the past few months. No review of this summer's activities would be complete without mentioning the weather, or more specifically the rain. This caused us major problems all summer with practices canceled and games rescheduled. Needless to say almost the worst of this happened during the Eden Valley Kickoff Tournament in June causing a lot of scrambling to get all the games in. Fortunately Raymond Field at Acadia was available and this was a major help. A lot of the kids enjoyed playing on the turf and all the parents enjoyed being dry! Major thanks should go to Stephen McNeill, our Administrator, who was largely responsible for holding things together. In total we had 32 teams competing in 6 divisions, U13, U15 and U18, Girls and Boys. Kings West won the U13 Boys and the U18 Boys, Somerset won the U13 Girls, West Hants won the U15 Boys and the U15 Girls and Kingston-Greenwood won the U18 Girls. Results are available on our website.

During the summer league seasons we fielded 5 teams in the Valley District leagues, U13, U15 and U18 Girls and 2 U13 Boys teams. They enjoyed mixed success, combining for a record of W 16, L 26, T 4 with GF 110 and GA 150.

In the NSSL we fielded teams in all the AA divisions, U13, U15 and U18 Girls and Boys plus a AAA U15 Boys team and the AAA Men's team. The 8 teams combined for a record of W 38, L 49, T 18 with GF 164 and GA 227. 3 of the 8 teams made it to Provincials with the U15 Girls and the Men losing in the semifinals and the U18 Girls, who won their league, lost in the final.

As you know, for the past several years we have had just 3 major sponsors. Tim Hortons provides an incredibly generous sponsorship to our mini program, providing complete uniforms to all players up to and including the U9s as well as a lot of other kit. Eden Valley Poultry has sponsored the Kickoff Tournament for a number of years. Bank of Montreal (BMO) significantly increased their level of sponsorship this year and now sponsor all our recreational youth teams who now wear the BMO logo on the front of their shirts.



I am now pleased to announce another major sponsor, the Lew Murphy restaurant group. Owned by Joey Murphy, the group owns the Kings Arms Pub in Kentville, the Half Acre Cafe in Kentville, Lew Murphy's Smoke and BBQ in New Minas and the Kings Arms Commons in Wolfville. Below is a picture of Joey and I signing the agreement.

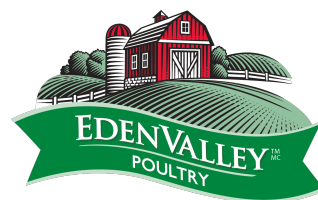


For 3 years Joey will sponsor the Men's and Women's AAA teams who will wear the logos of the Kings Arms Pub and the Kings Arms Commons on the front of their red and white shirts. This is a very generous sponsorship and, as with our other sponsors, I urge you to remember our sponsors when making decisions about where to spend your money. Too often, once a nonprofit group has collected a cheque from a sponsor the sponsor never hears from them again until they return the following year looking for another cheque. Let us not be like that. Let us support our sponsors and let them know that we appreciate their support.

While on the topic of sponsorship, we now have Tim Hortons as a shirt sponsor for the minis, BMO as a shirt sponsor for the youth recreational teams and the Kings Arms as the shirt sponsor for the Senior teams. We are still looking for shirt sponsors for the youth competitive teams and for the Skills Centre teams. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in exploring this opportunity please get in touch.

Looking back at off-field developments during the summer, there were a number of good things to report. We introduced the SPOND system to facilitate communication within the club and within individual teams. A student Grassroots Coordinator was hired in addition to other student staff and a weekly coaching curriculum provided for mini coaches. Summer soccer camps were introduced 3 mornings a week during the school holidays. A U9 Skills Centre was piloted on Friday evenings for kids from any club in the Valley. This was complimentary to the U9 programs run by their own clubs. There are plans to expand the Skills Centre program this winter to include U9s. Detailed descriptions of the winter and summer programs can now be found on the website.

This summer our Technical Director, Findlay MacRae, also became accredited by Soccer Nova Scotia as a Learning Facilitator. This means that he can deliver coaching clinics to aspiring coaches from clubs throughout the Valley. In addition, he plans to run technical sessions for kids during the in-service days when the schools are closed this winter. Furthermore, Valley United will again be partnering with Valley District Soccer Association this winter to deliver mini programming on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings.



And finally, 2 other items on the communications front. I would like to acknowledge Board member Krista Robertson who has done an outstanding job with our social media, posting lots of stuff to keep everybody up to date with goings on within the club.

Lastly, we will shortly be circulating the same survey which we send out last fall. Overall, last year 15% of our members responded with a higher percentage from competitive teams and lower from recreational teams. The responses were

largely positive and there was some useful feedback from the comments section. The results were published and are still available on the website. We hope that you will take a few minutes to respond as the higher the participation rate the more meaningful the results.

Best wishes,

Troy Lenihan.
President, Valley United Soccer Club.

