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Using Soccer to Inspire and Empower

Message from the President

We are hardly into a new year, and have already achieved much.



The Sponsorship Committee ran a Strategic Planning Session in January, facilitated by Tovah Paglaro and attended by players, coaches and volunteers. The goal was to come up with an overall plan both for this year and years to come - what we need to put in place to achieve a sustainable organization.

Our priority is to develop a structure that enables us to grow and work toward sustainable funding while maintaining our values. Therefore, our committees have been re-structured: Communications Committee (Chair - Kurt); Fundraising and Finance Committee (Sarah); Operations Committee (Dom); and Executive Committee (Steve). The planning process will continue through the year.

We continue an impressive practice schedule, with indoor or outdoor experiences five days each week. Planning and fundraising is already underway for our signature event - June Sports at Alert Bay. Keep a look out for more information on how you can help us to make this event a success.

Our players lead in many ways. Rick, Patrick, Dennis, Paul, John, Virgil, Norma, Jose and others continue to show leadership and mentoring for new and younger players and provide invaluable support and ideas for the coaches and volunteers at practices and events; Rose-Marie, Stevie, Dennis and Johnny are active with the Board. There are many more examples of player excellence. Most importantly, our players constantly reinforce our goal of providing an inclusive soccer community for all.

We are now in the second year of our formal relationship with The Whitecaps. They did so much for us last year, and 2016 promises to be just as good. We have already received some first class soccer gear for distribution to players. Whitecaps FC2 coaches and players will be attending our practice at 2.30 pm on Thursday April 7th. A number of players have been hired for summer employment - thanks again to Patrick for being such a valuable VSSL ambassador.

Our connection with local universities is thriving. As well as running a very popular Sunday practice, UBC Med Students are developing an outreach program with other VSSL volunteers and players to visit shelters and find new players, with a particular



March Blows in Like a Lion at the SFU - White Caps FC Game

March 13, turned out to be a cold, wet and blustery day. Nevertheless, five brave VSSL members trekked up to Burnaby Mountain to watch the SFU Men's Varsity game against the White Caps FC.

Sipping hot chocolate to fend off the cold, the group watched the winds blow so hard that it blew the ball away during free kicks. The game ended in a 0-0 tie.

"It was cold, but well worth it! Great game!" said VSSL player Dennis Munroe.

Thank you to SFU for inviting us to the game!



Feyenoord Rotterdam Train VSSL Players

On Thursday March 17, 2016, coaches from Dutch Premier League team, Feyenoord Rotterdam ran a professional training session for VSSL players. The Feyenoord staff were led by Mike Obiku (Former Nigerian World Cup player), with Peter Barendse, (former Feyenoord player), and support coaching staff from Surrey FC.

emphasis on women players. Events held at both Universities have been a success.

Allison has picked up the charitable status process and has been making real progress. Much remains to be done, but we are confident that we will be designated by the end of the year.

Thanks to Dan for drafting two very important policies: VSSL Bullying and Harassment Policy Statement and Undertaking; Players and Volunteers Waiver.

Sorry to report that Howard has resigned from the Board, but happy that on his recommendation we have added Tony Hajdu from Covenant House to the Board. Thanks Howard for your great contribution to VSSL.

Thanks to our sponsors: Avtiare, City of Vancouver, Fairware, Feyenoord, LUSH, Portland Hotels, Soccerwest, Social Conscience, Southsiders, Temple Shalom, UBC Med students, UBC Thunderbirds Women, VanCity, and the Whitecaps.

Thanks to all players, coaches, volunteers and sponsors for your hard work on behalf of the VSSL.

Steve McMinn,
President,
March 25, 2016

Get Involved

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with coaching and other VSSL activities. If you want to get involved, [email us here](#).



At least 40 VSSL players, coaches and volunteers enjoyed a 90-minute training session in the sunshine, ending with selfies, autographs and pizza.

Former Feyenoord player Jake Lensky, a local Feyenoord representative, organized the event. Jake and Feyenoord are committed to ongoing involvement with the VSSL –an exciting prospect!

Thanks Feyenoord!





UBC REC Tournament

Every year VSSL-UBC Rec Tournament gets better and better. Now in its fourth year, the futsal tournament hosted at the UBC Rec Centre on February, represents a strong, lasting partnership between UBC and the VSSL.

Fueled with excitement and good-natured competitiveness, VSSL players piled on the city bus and trekked over to UBC by 10am sharp.

There were many old and new faces and the tournament and the participants varied in skill ranges. They played on mixed teams of VSSL and UBC participants in four short, high-energy games. This year, each team was also supported and encouraged by a team leader and the highlight of the event was seeing a diverse group of participants play together with such enthusiasm and a true passion for the game.

Thank you Tristan Brown and the UBC Rec players for hosting the tournament and making it possible. We look forward to another great tournament next year!

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