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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT (Peter Strazdas)

Volunteers are the foundation of any service or team club. The Portage Soccer Club is no different. It takes a lot of people to provide a quality environment for your child's soccer experience. At the team level, parents make a commitment to participate with the many team activities. However, there is also a commitment each parent must make to the club. In order to keep operating costs down and maintain one of the best soccer facilities in the State, we ask the club's parents to volunteer in two activities. Please take your turn at the concession stand and help out for a few hours at the Portage Soccer Classic Tournament. Overall, it's not a significant commitment. Please step-up and do your part for the Club. Many hands make the job go easier!

For those who want to make an additional commitment, the club has other needs. The Board is always looking for interested people to meet once a month to guide the direction and activities of the club. The Portage Soccer Classic committee organizes a tournament of over 100 teams. And then of course there is the Portage Soccer Club premier facilities. Did you know the fields are maintained by volunteers? Again, to keep costs down, a small group of dedicated volunteers mow the grass, stripe the fields, empty the trash, and do all of the maintenance activities to keep the facility looking first class. Someone told me the other day the City Parks Department does a great job maintaining the fields. They thought the Portage Soccer Complex was a city asset. They were amazed to learn the Portage Soccer Club owns the complex and volunteers maintain it.

June is an active month for our club. The Portage Soccer Classic starts a week after our kids get out of school. I hope everyone understands that our home tournament is the Club's biggest fund-raiser. PSC tryouts start June 21. The PSC Strategic Planning Committee also gets started with their visioning and planning sessions. You can read more about these in this newsletter.

See you on the fields.....Pete

TRYOUT DATES FOR 2004/2005 TEAMS (Evelyn Flynn)

Please mark these dates on your calendar now for tryouts in June.

Age	Dates
U10	Tues and Thurs June 22 & 24 (includes U9 players)
U11	Mon and Wed June 21 & 23
U12	Tues and Thurs June 22 & 24
U13	Mon and Wed June 21 & 23
U14	Tues and Thurs June 22 & 24
U15	Mon and Wed June 21 & 23
U16	Tues and Thurs June 22 & 24
U17	Mon and Wed June 21 & 23
U18	Tues and Thurs June 22 & 24
U19	Mon and Wed June 21 & 23

Tryouts will be 5:30 to 8:00 each evening at the Portage Soccer Complex. For more information about what to bring (including the registration form and photo), please go to www.portagesoccer.com and select "tryout information" or go to <http://www.portagesoccer.com/tryout.htm>

PORTAGE SOCCER CLASSIC UPDATE (David Rice)

The 18th Annual Portage Soccer Classic Tournament is rapidly approaching and preparations are underway to make this our best tournament ever. The good news is that we have 148 teams registered; a 40% increase over our 2003 numbers. We need all PSC families to step up and help make our visitors feel welcome in our community. Here are my suggestions for tournament weekend:

- Use one vehicle at the tournament or even carpool with a neighbor. Like every tournament, parking will be at a premium. We will again be using Soccerzone's fields and parking lots. Why not park there and leave our main lot for our visitors? We have also arranged to use the field at the northwest corner of our property for excess parking.
- Sprinkle Road between Soccerzone and Ramona Park is under construction. Please drive safely and leave plenty of travel time.
- Pitch in and pick up trash wherever you see it! We particularly need help in that area on both Saturday and Sunday evenings.
- Help enforce our complex rules. The entire soccer complex (field, parking lots) is smoke and pet free. If you see someone breaking these rules politely remind them of seek a field marshall.

·Ask if you can help out. Many families are already volunteering to work a shift. We will need extra help as the weekend goes on.

·Put on your best smile and be an ambassador for Portage soccer. Let's give our visiting teams a reason to return.

TRY-OUT OPEN HOUSE AT SOCCERZONE FRIDAY JUNE 4

SoccerZone and area clubs including TKO are having an open house on Friday June 4th. The TKO Staff will be here for registration and available for questions. All of the local Clubs(Kalamazoo, River Oaks, Red Arrow, Portage, Sting, and Battle Creek to name a few) will be here with information about their organizations.

Some of the activities are listed below:

5:45-6:30 Outdoor clinic for WMYSA U11, 12, and 13 Boys and Girls with U15 National Team Coach "Ken Lolla"

6:45-9:30 Futsal Tourney

6:30-8:30 Meet the coaches, register for tryouts, and team informational meetings. All of the TKO Staff will be present. Also all of the area clubs will have a representative here to answer any of your questions.

8:30-9:00 Q&A with National Team Coach Ken Lolla.

8:30-9:30 Social Hour(Beer, soda, and munchies provided)

We look forward to seeing you on the 4th.

Neil, Laura, Todd, and Jeff

269-329-0171

PORTAGE SOCCER COMPLEX (David Rice)

Springtime in Michigan is one of my favorite seasons. After a long hard winter nature awakens from its slumber. It's a time to fertilize and mow lawns, mulch trees and planting beds, pull weeds and plant flowers. If that sounds familiar at your house it's also happening at the soccer complex. The difference is that we have 30 acres of grass and grounds to maintain each week. Throw in all the rain this May and it's nearly impossible for the PSC volunteers to do more than just mow and line the fields.

How can you help? The 30 to 45 minutes before game time is an opportunity to help out. Bring your shovels and trowels and pitch in. Here are some of the jobs we need to complete before the tournament.

- All trees need to be spaded and weeds pulled before new mulch is added.
- Parking lot islands need to be weeded.
- Replace mulch around trees and planting beds.
- Power wash concrete surfaces.
- Pick up trash outside our fence along the west boundary.
- Clean the goal posts. I'm getting a cleaner that is able to remove the hard winter stains.

Thanks for your help. We want the complex to look its best.

PSC BOARD TO UNDERTAKE STRATEGIC REVIEW (Stephen Benoit)

The Board of Portage Soccer Club has commissioned a subcommittee to conduct a strategic review of where the Club is at present, and its future direction for the next three to five years. There are many changes taking place within the soccer community in greater Southwest Michigan and the Board thought it prudent to undertake such a self-assessment and analysis. The last time such a review was conducted was about ten years ago.

Subcommittee members include Steve Benoit (Parent Rep), John Calnin (past Board member), Norm Jansen (VP Publicity), Bob Kucinski (past Board member), Jon Kucinski (Coach U15 girls), Dave Rice (PSC Tournament Director), Pete Strazdas (Board President), and Scott Williams (Coach U15 girls). The Subcommittee's initial meeting will review the previous strategy document and current PSC mission; discuss the Club's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT); identify possible future 'scenarios' for PSC; define a feedback mechanism that will enable PSC members to have input into the review process; and set out a timetable for completion of this effort.

Future updates and reports on the Subcommittee's progress will be forthcoming in subsequent electronic and print editions of The Keeper.