



President's View:

Greetings from our New President

It's an honor and a privilege to be serving as your president. I thoroughly enjoyed being Treasurer for a year, and I feel well prepared to carry out my duties as president. After a busy summer & much reorganization, I feel GRASA is on a solid course. Our future has never been more focused or more promising. Our 12 Board members are a group of dedicated and hard-working individuals whose express concern is the development and satisfaction of our kids as soccer players and human beings. Our constant focus is the KIDS!

One of our goals this year is to provide better communication to our membership, and this is a step toward that goal. We plan to send to you regular club newsletters, continually update our informative web site, and encourage on-going communication between all of us. Every board member is readily available; as are the coaches, team managers, team reps., etc.

I'll be sharing more of our goals with you in future newsletters, as well as tracking our progress as we go. In the meantime, mark your calendars for Thursday, October 18th, as we meet at the Watermark Country Club for our annual general membership meeting (parents only!). We will vote on some very important by-law changes, officially vote in our new board, update you on pertinent information, and have some FUN! I look forward to seeing you all there!

Laurie Wilson, USWilson1@aol.com
GRASA President

Managing Managers:

A Salute to Team Managers

The Team Managers are doing a great job organizing their teams! The e-mail "phone tree" has been a wonderful source for all of the latest Club updates. These dedicated managers have made several trips to the "Cambridge Pick Up and Drop Off Center" getting supplies for the teams. Be sure to thank your Team Manager after every game, they are the backbone of your team!

Claudia Judson, Claudiajudson5@home.com
GRASA Team Manager Coordinator

Concerning Equipment:

Just a Few Words

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the new GRASA uniforms from Nike. Please remember that these uniforms are yours and do not need to be turned in at the end of the season. Thanks to everyone for their patience while we were getting the tee shirts to some teams. Hopefully we will not have this problem next year. Please remind the players that the tee shirts are their second uniform, and need to be worn when there is a color conflict. It is the players' responsibility to have both jerseys at the games. Additional socks and shorts are available at Gazelle Sports.

The club would like to thank Team Gazelle and Nike for providing a coach's package that included a warm up, polo shirt and match ball. We appreciate all that our coaches do! A huge GRASA thank you to J'Ann and Bruce Mc Ewen and their family for storing the nets and flags at their home for so many years!! Thank You!!

We would also like to thank Chuck and Katie King and their family for allowing us to store the nets and flags in their barn this year. Thank You!!

It takes many volunteers to make this club function for our kids, Thank You to all.

Mike Bart, PMSMBart@home.com
GRASA Equipment Coordinator

**Please Attend
the
GRASA Annual Meeting**

**Come meet your GRASA Board Members
Get a chance to hear our new
Director of Coaching
on
October 18, 2001
7:30pm**

**Watermark Country Club
1600 Galbraith SE
on Cascade Road between Laraway and
Hall Streets**

**Appetizers provided
cash bar
door prizes**

***** Parents only Please*****

Communications:

Website Update

www.eteamz.com/GRASA – Many people will recognize this as the web address of the GRASA web site. Regular visitors to the site know that it is a valuable source of news, announcements, and information for GRASA coaches, managers, players, and families. This article describes some of the areas that we are working on developing further.

Photos – We would love to display more pictures of our soccer players and teams. This is an opportunity for all you photographers to show off your work. We would like to see team photos, action photos, coach photos, snapshots, or whatever. If you have something that you are willing to share, please contact Ken Coviak and we can make arrangements to scan the photos and add them to our web pages.

Maps – The maps section of the web site currently has directions and maps to our home fields, and a number of other fields that we play on. For many of these fields, there is a compass symbol defined which provides a link to Yahoo Maps for that field. This provides a map centered on the field, which you can then zoom in or out, print, or get driving directions to the field. There are a lot of fields that are not yet set up for maps and directions. We will continue working on these, and hope to develop a complete set of directions and maps for the fields that our teams play on.

Links – If you have visited the Links page, you know that it is a little sparse. There are lots of soccer resources on the Internet. We want to know which are your favorites, whether it is soccer news, coaching tips, or online shopping for soccer gear. Send your email to me, Ken Coviak, with the web address of your favorite link and why you like it, and we will add it to the links page, giving you credit for the “find”.

Ken Coviak, coviak_ken@si.com
GRASA Communications Coordinator

USSF Referee Certification Class

GRASA is sponsoring the Referee certification class for 2002. It will be taught by Keith Miller, West Mich. USSF certified instructor, Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday; dates and times TBA. The written test will be at the end of class Sunday. Cost is \$43.00 for the class & RULES OF THE GAME. If you pass the test, you will receive your badge shortly thereafter from USSF. The class will be held at the XChange on 44th St SW in Wyoming. Class size is limited to 30 students. Jim Fuller is again offering this facility for training and offers a full line of referee clothing and equipment at the Soccer Loft, 0-32 44th St SW. Call John Corbett at 245-4858 to register.

THIS CLASS IS NOT FOR RECERTIFICATION

Registrar's Read:

Open Letter to the Club

Dear Players and Soccer Families,

My name is Patti Masotta and I am the Registrar for the Fall 2001/Spring 2002 season. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new and returning GRASA players. GRASA has registered 368 players for the Fall 2001 season. The U15 and U16 Boys teams will be registered for the Spring 2002 season, bringing the total players in our club to over 425.

I would like to first thank Diane Parks and Julie Barrett, the former registrars, for the smooth transition in registrar duties. They were always available to answer any questions or help in any way. Their efforts in streamlining the registration process - e.g. Registration Night - were instrumental in the timely processing of GVSA requirements.

We had over a 75% turnout for Registration Night and I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked that night. Many people pitched in on the spot when they saw how many players were there to register! There is a huge need for more Notaries at Registration Night, so please contact me if you can help next year in any way.

In the course of my duties as Registrar, I have enjoyed meeting many of the new and returning players and parents. I have also enjoyed working with the Team Managers and Coaches, from the veterans who were patient with me, to the new recruits who learned right along with me! I hope everyone has a great season.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Thank you,

Patti Masotta, pmasotta@att.net
GRASA Registrar

Tournament Update:

Tournaments for Spring 2002

GRASA has elected to play in just one tournament this Spring as a Club: The Junior Irish Memorial Invitational in South Bend, Indiana, May 25-27, 2002. Because of the lack of rooms available in Saginaw, GRASA will not be attending as a Club. Instead, the 2nd tournament this Spring will be the Team's choice. There are still *some* rooms booked for our Club if your team would like to go. Let me know as soon as possible.

Note, GRASA is considering a different tournament schedule for next year and will announce our plans prior to tryouts next spring. E-mail any suggestions or comments about Tournaments to me. I will then communicate them to the board.

Mary Brandon, maryb@asrcorp.com
GRASA Tournament Coordinator

Coach's Corner:

So What's the Problem?

Adults and kids do not share the same priorities. Although this may not sound like rocket science or come as any great surprise, we are constantly reminded of this fact in the world of youth sports.

I remember several years ago as my just turned 7 year old daughter had begun her first year of slow pitch softball, an event that forced me to assess my viewpoint. I had taken her to every one of her practices over the first few weeks leading up to the season.

On the day of her first game, I was unable to attend as my older daughters had a soccer game. Upon my return home that afternoon I asked my 7-year-old, "How was your game?" She dejectedly replied, "It was OK." Sensing a problem, I asked, "What's wrong? Did you lose?" "No Dad, we won." She slowly replied. More concerned, I continued to prod, "Well, did you not play well?" "No, I did pretty good." She said, again with a clear evidence of disappointment in her voice. "Did your coach not play you very much?" I continued. "No, I played the whole game." She responded. By this time I was running out of thoughts of why she seemed so distraught. So, I asked, "Honey, why are you so disappointed?" "Well Dad, I don't think my coach knows what he is doing!" she said matter-of-factly. "What do you mean?" I asked. She very seriously said, "He didn't even bring treats!"

As I have thought that rather funny event through over the past several years, it has helped me to keep in perspective what kids want out of sports is rarely what their parents think they should want out of sports. In my example, the very first thought that came to my mind was that they had lost the game. In fact my list in order of what I thought would be her most important reasons she would be disappointed was:

Did you LOSE?
Did you not play well?
Did you not get to play much?

From her 7-year-old perspective, these had much less importance than having treats after the game. In fact, although she knew her team had won the game, just over one-hour after it was over, she could not remember the score.

We have a serious dilemma in youth sports today and the implications are saddening. Several studies have been done and clearly show that children participate in sports primarily because they want to have fun. Other reasons were their desire to be with friends, to feel some level of success and competency while learning something new and to receive support from family, coaches, and friends.

There are some 20 million kids participating in youth sports, yet 73% drop out by age 13. Many factors may influence these decisions, but studies show that the primary reasons children between the ages of 12 and 16 quit include: not having fun, getting yelled at by coaches and parents, not getting enough playing time, not learning how to improve, too much emphasis on winning and not having the basic skills they need. In a University of Michigan survey of 26,300 10-18 year olds, "having fun" was the most important reason they played sports, while winning was the least important of the ten choices given.

What does all this mean? As coaches and parents, we need to assess who this game is really for. If we truly believe the game is for the kids, we need to constantly assess our own actions and beliefs to see if they honestly reflect our stand that the game is for the kids. In our courses, we teach about the four components of soccer:

Technique – or skill

Tactics – or the application of skill through decision making

Fitness – proper fitness, stretching, warm-up and cool-down, etc.

Psychology – The mental game of motivation, etc.

As a coach, we have the responsibility to "develop" the players. If we respond to what the players are saying they want out of the game, we find that every one of those desires addresses every component of the game. If we fail to teach them the skills and tactics, they will have a difficult time of achieving their objectives of *having the basic skills they need and learning how to improve.*

Psychologically, they are looking for *Support* from coaches, parents, and teammates. Support is something that holds up an object or person. Imagine the Mackinac Bridge without the tower supports. Pretty ineffective engineering. Our players need us to positively support them, also.

I would like to recommend that coaches appoint a parent to videotape the coaches and the parents at games. I recently watched such a video at a National Youth Instructors Symposium that was very disheartening. I suspect that if those parents' children responded to their parenting in such a way that they were responding to their children's honest attempts at playing the game, they would be appalled and some pretty severe discipline would follow.

We truly must give the game back to the players. Each parent has responsibilities to their child, the coach, and the team. The question is, will I choose to be a part of the problem or part of the solution? Your child will appreciate the later! Go ahead, have some FUN!

Dan McAllister, DMcall5553@aol.com
GRASA Director of Coaching

GRASA Winter Indoor Training Program

GRASA is organizing and offering the finest Winter Indoor Training (WIT) Program exclusively for GRASA players. And here's why it's "the finest!" The Coaches! We staff this program with only Nationally licensed coaches, with both playing and coaching experience. Our staff will deliver top quality training, including player "Homework", that will assist our players in taking their play to the next level. Quality is the key and that starts with quality coaches. Here is a list of some of our WIT Coaches:

Aaron Dean – ODP Staff Coach, MSYSA Staff Coach, and Grand Haven HS Boys Coach. Played at Grand Haven High School and 4 years at Hope College.

Aaron Daane – ODP Staff Coach, MSYSA Staff Coach, and GVP Head Coach. Played on California ODP Program, and Semi-pro in Mexico.

Patrick Moran – ODP Staff coach since 1996, MSYSA staff coach since 1997, and former DOC of Tri-Cities Soccer Club.

Dianne Strawser – Asst Coach Cornerstone University, and Asst Coach Westmont College, CA (Nationally ranked in top 5). Played on Regional ODP Pool, California ODP Team, and 4-year player at UC Santa Barbara.

Randy Strawser – Head Coach Cornerstone University, and Head Coach Westmont College, CA. Played 4 years at a Div 1 College.

Dan McAllister – ODP Staff Coach since 1995, MSYSA Staff Coach since 1996, 3 years College head coach, 3 years high school, and GVP head coach 4 years. Played competitively in Michigan, Colorado, and California for 14 years.

Jeremy Thelen – ODP Staff Coach and Operates own Goal Keeping Programs. Played at Grand Haven HS and 4 years at Olivet-Nazarene College.

The WIT Program

The GRASA WIT Program will begin on Thursday, November 8, 2001 at the Sports XChange on 44th St. The program will be one hour per week for a 6-week session. The cost of each 6-week session is \$75. The following schedule will be followed:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>AGE Group</u>
5pm – 6pm	U9 & U10
6pm – 7pm	U11 & U12
7pm – 8pm	U13 & U14
8pm – 9pm	U15 – U19

To sign up, use the application below. Space is limited, so sign-up early. We may be able to offer additional days if the demands are there. Also, we expect to offer a total of 3 – six week sessions during the winter months for those who wish to continue.

-----cut here-----

Space is limited. Cost for this session is \$75 – paid with application

GRASA "WIT" PROGRAM APPLICATION

NAME	ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE		
E-MAIL	AGE	GRASA TEAM	MALE/FEMALE

Medical Release – Liability Release Information:

I, _____ the parent or legal guardian for _____ realize that a soccer camp has high physical demands and possible injuries from participation and hereby authorize the staff of GRASA and staff coaches to act on my behalf according to their best judgment in the event my child should require any emergency and/or medical attention. I hereby also waive and release the GRASA WIT Coaching Staff, the Sports XChange, or anyone involved with this camp in any way from any and all liability for any injury, illness, or other mishap incurred while at GRASA WIT Program.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Please mail this form to with payment of \$75 made out to GRASA to:

**13201 Shutter Dr
Lowell, MI 49331**

From the Treasure Chest:

New Address for Reimbursement

Our new Treasurer is just settling into his new position and will have an article on "Dollars and Sense for the Serious Soccer Investor" next issue. Meanwhile, here is his address for getting reimbursed for any expenses.

Paul Clemens
6777 Cascade Lakes Ct SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Paul Clemens, Paul.Clemens@53.com
GRASA Treasurer

Tryouts:

What Have We Learned?

It's been nearly 4 months now since Try Outs and most of us are entirely engrossed in our fall season. Practice and Games are the focus right now and some of us are even thinking ahead to the indoor season. With such a flurry of activity, many of us seldom take time to reflect backwards. We are too busy with today and tomorrow, and have no time for the past. It's this kind of forward-looking mindset that can actually hurt us as a Club.

Regardless of age group, win loss record, white or blue team, boy or girl, big or small, we all have one thing in common. We are all byproducts of *Try Outs*. Think of it. Parents, players, coaches, and even Board Members, are all part of GRASA because of *the Try Out* process. This may not sound like a profound statement but if you stop and think about it for a while, it takes on a deeper significance.

If this one event has such a dramatic effect on each of us, shouldn't we spend more time reflecting on it? If the outcome has consequences that determine whether or not we make a team, or which team we make, doesn't it demand more reflection? So, let me ask you a simple question. What did *you* learn from last June?

As a player, were you prepared for Try Outs? Were you in shape? Were you tired? Were you focused? Had you been practicing? As a Parent, did you have your player prepared? Did you get them there on time? Did they have enough water? Were they hungry or too full?

As a Coach, were you ready? Did you know what you wanted to do? Were you there on time? Did you have everything you needed? Were you focused on the task at hand? As Coordinator for the last 3 years and based on what I have seen and heard, we have a great need to look back and learn from our mistakes. There's an old Proverb that says, "Those that don't learn from their mistakes are bound to repeat them." Will you?

John Hall, Jhall@rbc.org
GRASA (former) Try Out Coordinator

Secretary's Desk:

Greetings and a Skip DeVormer Update

I am a newcomer to GRASA as well as the GRASA Board. In my short period of time I have learned that there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes of a select soccer club. Myself, as well as my family, are learning as we go. We are enjoying the feeling of "belonging." Thus far the GRASA experience has been a positive one. I look forward to learning more of the operations to make a successful club and helping in any way that I am able to.

Many of the club members know Skip DeVormer. Skip was slated to be the coach for the U10 Girls White team. Shortly after our first parents meeting with Skip, he learned that he had bone cancer. Skip is keeping in contact with the club and continues his love for soccer and badly wishes he was able to coach his girls. We are praying that Skip will win his battle with cancer.

Please continue to keep Skip in your prayers!

Sheila Schlosser, Schl89@aol.com
GRASA Secretary

Referee's Call:

To Managers: Rescheduling Games

All games are to be played as scheduled unless GVSA prints an amended schedule or I approve a request to reschedule a game. If you fail to appear, you subject yourself and your team to penalties and a fine via GVSA. If referees appear for a scheduled game, they will need to be paid – and if the game is rescheduled, you will run short of your allotted funds.

If the reason for the request meets the criteria, I will do whatever I can to reschedule the game with referees. Please phone me to make a request (email just doesn't do it). I have an answering machine for this purpose. There were approx. 90 games to schedule referees for, there have been 4 amended schedules that I review game by game, referees need to be replaced, and GR Parks and Rec will close fields with as little as 12 hours notice. These are many of the reasons why I request that you telephone me to have your request reviewed. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

Now, one more thing and I'll be done. Over the years, we've all heard the fan that seems intent on telling the referee or linesmen how to do their job. They almost always have something to say. Well, the next time it happens, let them know that GRASA is sponsoring this year's referee certification course, *and*, if they attend, they can get paid to start making those calls!

John Corbett, JSCsails@aol.com
GRASA Referee Coordinator



7220 Thornapple River Dr SE
Ada, MI 49301

To Our Friends At:

Current GRASA Board:

Member:	Position:	Age Representative:
Laurie Wilson	President	U16
Open	President-Elect	
Sheila Schlosser	Secretary	U11
Paul Clemens	Treasurer	
Patti Masotta	Registrar	U9
Ken Coviak	Communications	U15
Dan McAllister	Director of Coaching	
Mike Bart	Equipment Coordinator	U13
Mary Boettcher	Field Coordinator	U12
John Hall	Fundraising Coordinator	U14
Claudia Judson	Manager Coordinator	U17&U19
John Corbett	Referee Coordinator	U10
Mary Brandon	Tournament Coordinator	
Open	Try Out Coordinator	

Late Breaking News:

Got Those Warm and Fuzzies?

There seems to be, at this point, isolated incidents of warm up pants balling or pilling after washing. Team Gazelle and Nike are committed to taking care of this issue. If this is a problem you're having, please contact Steve Thomas at Sthomas@Voyager.net, and include name, email or phone number, and size of pants.

Free Money:

GRASA to Give Away Millions!!!

In order to keep registration costs down and continue to be the top Soccer Club in West Michigan, GRASA is embarking on a 3-pronged effort to raise money for the Club. We will continue to have our yearly fundraiser (ie. candy sales, etc), but our hope is to generate additional revenue from Newsletter Advertisement and Various Team Sponsorships.

Details are still being ironed out, but our goal will be to provide Jersey's, Paid Coaching, Indoor and Camp Training, without passing on that cost to you through Registration. If you would like more information on Newsletter Advertisement or Team Sponsorship, please email me right away.

John Hall, jhall@rbc.org
Fundraising/Sponsorship Coordinator