

Comox Valley United Soccer Club
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YEAR END REPORTS



President - Stefan Szkwarek

Comox Valley United Soccer Club is entering this AGM in a position of financial strength but also solid and sustainable growth. To this end, over the last year, the club has not only seen another significant increase in house registration, but has also seen a steady rise in our already popular development programs (Monday night development, camps and futsal). In order to ensure that this growth is sustainable and that our membership continues to get the best value for its dollar, we are now looking to increase our staff footprint including a new full time technical director. In terms of the latter, although we have yet to find a successful candidate, our rigorous selection process including a 3 person hiring committee will ensure that we bring quality technical leadership to our club.

Within the club, we are poised to progress our application to attain charter status within BC soccer which will mean that we are meeting the quality standards within our province for running our club. This will be a transparent process for our membership, but once attained, will allow for direct communication with the provincial association on technical and administrative matters. Further, from a club management prospective, the club has been consulting with Mr. Paul Varian who has advised us on the various means by which we can improve our operations and management. To this end, we are hoping to continue working with him, redeveloping a strategic plan and continuing to grow our club.

Locally, we've seen a significant increase in the club's marketing as we now participate in the Canada day and Santa Claus parades, have increased our exposure by local media and have significantly increased our social media presence. To this end, by getting our message out more often, we've attracted many new members. The expectation moving forward is to stand up a sponsorship and marketing committee in order to further these types of initiatives. Volunteers welcome.

From an executive level, although serving as Director of player development until September, unexpected departures and my release from the RCAF to stay permanently in the Comox Valley led to being selected as the club president. Further, after much turnover on the board over the last 3 years, a number of new individuals have stepped up to fill key roles within the executive. As such our new executive directors bring much life experience to the table as we've been fortunate to add people from the RCAF, medical services, financial services and STEM fields. Although soccer is at the heart of all decision making, by having a broadly represented executive board with various skill sets, it enhances a reason and fact-based decision making process at executive meetings. Finally, the board composition is such that a variety of age groups, experience levels and both genders are represented; a trend which we would like to keep in the years ahead.

To summarize, the club is in a very healthy and sustainable position and if successfully re-elected as president I am very much looking to lead and grow our great organization over the next few years. #WeAreUnited.

Vice President - Mike Read

I have had the pleasure of serving as VP since February 2019, it has been a very positive experience and a great insight into the hard work that goes into running a non profit soccer club. During my short term I have spend quite a bit of time working with other board members and employees to understand how the club runs, and learn the roles of board members.

I have also worked with the clubs referee coordinator in the absence of a referee-in-chief to try and address the shortage of referees for all levels at the club.

In addition I have assisted the club President and Director of Development with the process of hiring a Technical Director. On the admin front I have secured some free / discounted computer software and hardware available to non profit organisations in Canada. This is the first step in trying to streamline the admin tasks at the club, and ensuring that knowledge isn't lost when board members and employees leave the club.

Moving forward, I aim to continue to support the club president, board members and employees in any way I can to ensure the club continues to evolve in a positive direction.

Treasurer - Remi Tran

Please see Notice to Reader.

Secretary - Jennifer Vinzenz

I have had the joy of acting in the position of Secretary since July of 2018. Since I have come on board I have attended all meetings (except 1) and have recorded minutes. I work with the Club President, Vice President and Administrator to prepare the Agenda for each meeting.

The BC Societies Act came into effect November 28, 2018. To ensure that CVUSC was in compliance I ensured that set up the required accounts to use Societies Online and completed the transition package. I continue to ensure that our Constitution, bylaws, directors information is regularly up to date and compliant with this Act.

I have actively managed the CVUSC newsletter and have increased readership to just under 2000 active readers. I also manage the CVUSC Facebook page whereby engagement is positive and active.

Moving forward next year, CVUSC is ready to apply and attain Club Charter Status within BC Soccer and I will be an active participant in that process.

CVUSC is definitely on a positive track and we have many hardworking people on the board. I am proud to be a member of CVUSC and look forward to achieving great things for the club next year.

Director of Development - Jaime McDowell

I have had the opportunity to serve as interim Director of Development since October 2018. It has been a pleasure to work with the board and so many other volunteers during this time. We are putting a lot of time and energy into producing some positive changes for our player development.

DS: Our DS program continues to grow. The program focus is on individual player development and ball mastery. We have many positive coaches out there supporting our players in each of our U8-U11 age groups. This spring we have 165 players involved from U8-11! Spring and fall sessions are run on both the turf and the Vanier grass divided up into our own age/gender groups. During the winter months we do combined sessions on the turf.

Our U9-11 groups have all had the opportunity to play in tournaments such as the Mayor's Cup in Surrey and the Island Fire in Victoria. We have also had the opportunity to play friendlies with other communities, such as Powell River, Port Alberni, and Campbell River.

We had a well-attended jamboree in the fall and we're looking forward to another jamboree in June. We have invited teams from Gorge, Powell River, Campbell River, Port Alberni, Nanaimo and Hornby Island to participate again this year.

Futsal: Futsal was well attended this winter. We had over 50 players participating from U8-U13! Sessions were run at the base gym on Saturday mornings. The focus was individual player development and ball mastery.

U12-16 Development sessions: We had 2 6-week development sessions on Monday evenings in the fall and winter this year. Unfortunately, several of the winter sessions were cancelled due to extended period of snow we had. CVUSC and Upper Island Riptide coaches collaborated to provide these free training sessions for U12-16 CVUSC and Riptide players. We are very excited to continue the collaboration between our Tier 3 and Tier 2 programs going forward!

U10-13 Friday Development sessions: Our intention was to have a goalie/striker development afternoon over 5 Fridays this winter. Coaches from the Upper Island Riptide and CVUSC were going to provide this opportunity for U10-U11 CVUSC DS players and U12-U13 Select players. Unfortunately the fields were closed for an extended period this winter and prevented us from getting this program running. We are looking forward to offering something similar next year!

Coach Education: This fall we had a number of our club coaches become certified in the Learn to Train course. Ash Mohtadi, a BC Soccer facilitator, worked with our DS coaches on the turf during a Monday evening session for some on-field time with our DS players. We are looking forward to being able to offer more regular coaching courses with a new paid technical director.

Player Development Information Night: Our information night on March 3 about our development pathway was well attended. We were fortunate to hear from Andrew Latham, head coach of the Tier 1 Vancouver Island Wave, Shel Brodsgaard, director of soccer operations for the Upper Island Riptide, and Stefan Szkwarek, CVUSC president.

VI Wave Training Sessions: Our 2006/2007 players had the opportunity to join two VI Wave training sessions hosted by Kevin Lindo in Nanaimo over Spring Break. Players were able to train with players from Nanaimo United, the Storm and the Wave. It was hopefully the first of many combined training sessions to integrate our island programs.

TD Hiring: This winter and spring we have put in a significant amount of time and energy into finding a paid technical director for the club. Our club is growing and moving forward in many positive ways and we need a paid professional to oversee our operations and relieve the burden from many of our hard-working volunteers. We will be able to offer even better programs with a dedicated professional overseeing them. The TD hiring process has included written applications, on-line interviews and an on-field assessment. We are excited about the prospect of having someone on board later this spring!

Through the last seven months, I have been a part of so many positive things happening at CVUSC and I am looking forward to the evolution of our club in the future!

Director of House League - Tim Krutzman

I am proud to report that the CVUSC has had an extremely successful year in house soccer. Youth soccer is alive and well in the Comox Valley. The number of players that take the pitch every Saturday is growing. During the fall session 569 children played soccer up 75 players from the previous year. The spring session this season has seen a large growth from the previous two years, by more the 100 new players. A lot of this growth has to do with the increased exposure our sport gets by playing at the Valley View clubhouse site again. Driving by the pitch on Saturday mornings, Valley residents see 100's of players playing soccer; that is a great advertisement.

The spring numbers could be higher as we had waiting lists for several divisions and we could not accommodate the numbers as we did not have enough coaches. Having said that, we were able to staff all the teams that were created thanks to the incredible efforts of Cheri Tilley and our amazing Division Managers. I have met as many of our coaches as I can and have personally thanked them for their service to our club. We are essentially a volunteer-based organization and we could not function without their help.

Unlike Select soccer we fortunately did not lose many games to weather in the fall session or last years spring season. Ending the season in the fall earlier ended up being a very wise decision.

This spring we are rolling out our new jersey program where players in all house divisions get to keep their jerseys at the end of the session. This will help streamline our jersey efforts. Thank you so much to Roberta "Bert" Churchill for the great work she does putting our jerseys and kits together. With the possibility of a new TD we are excited for the prospects for coach training. I encourage all coaches to register for the appropriate training sessions for their age groupings. In short, we have had a great year.

The State of United is strong.

Director of Select Girls - Paul Pratt

This year has been my first year in the position of Director - Select Girls. It's been a bit of a learning curve for me, however, I have enjoyed this opportunity to be part of an amazing group of people on this board.

The select girls numbers are getting stronger , I feel I can speak more comfortably about the U11, U12, U13, U15 as I know about them better, due to the age of my daughter.

The U15 group has had a strong year despite a tough start with a few injuries early in the season . They played strong through the season and made it to the coastal cup . I was able to get out and watch 1 of their games . I wish I could have made a few more. Great work - to Brian and his team.

The U13 group is a very strong group as well and played hard all season with help from a few U12 players who seemed to fit in nicely. Most of them will move on to VIPL this 2019 -2020 season to play for the U14 riptide. Good job girls! A few of the U12 I believe at this stage will come back to their own age group and build the numbers there.

The U12 select group had their first year in the UISA Super 8 league and learned about Super 8 play. They had a good season team building and playing soccer, enjoying road trips, eating and laughing together. They gained a lot of experience when they attended the Mayor's cup and competed well. They will be off to island fire to finish their year up....should be fun!

The U11 girls in the DS group will be coming up this year to the Select girls and have the potential of 22 players so far. It is my hope they will be able to support 2 teams as the group did last year. I was speaking to a few of the coaches recently about what to expect in the first year of Select and playing in the UISA league, I was happy to share what I learned and they were happy to listen .

I wish I had more time to see the older girl's team's play.

The next step is our tryouts for the 2019- 2020 season . We have just posted the dates on the website and will begin the process of Coach applications. We will hold a coaches meeting prior to tryouts and dates will be announced soon for this.

Director of Select Boys - Jerret Dickinson

This year we have one boys team heading to provincials. Mike North / Peter Harris' U15/16 boys. They will be headed to Prince George this summer. The Super 8 teams have struggled this year. It wasn't brought to the board in a sufficient time for ideas and suggestions to be recommended - will make this a priority this year. A lot of house players were brought up to accommodate the super 8 numbers. The positive is that these house players were gaining experience in a competitive environment.

Unfortunately there were no submissions to the local paper from any select boys teams. This was an initiative early on in the season to start letting everyone know how your team is doing, and to promote the game. After numerous reminders it was a mute point. Will re-engage in the new season.

We didn't get a chance to have a coaches meeting early on in the season. Timings and practice schedules overlapped, will recommend having one well before the season starts. We had one Parent Code of Conduct issue. The Code of Conducts are to be signed by each parent as it protects both the player and coach. I will recommend we follow hockey's rule: Don't sign, your child doesn't play.

Although I sent out monthly emails to all coaches/managers asking if there were issues that they would like me to bring to the board, it was minimal. We didn't see a lot of U13 boys making their way in the next level of tiered soccer (Tier 2). This is a first I believe that U13 boys from our club have not moved up to the next level in this age group. I will make recommendations for next year and gauge the level of interest or skill set.

Director of Masters - Phil Statham

This last year has been very exciting for Masters soccer. We continue to grow in numbers and now boast Two 45 and over teams to go along with 35s and 55s . This was the first time in history for this and when the two teams play it makes for some good, exciting soccer . One team plays as Comox, the other Courtenay .

The Salish cup a new initiative, will be played Saturday May 11th with two teams from North Vancouver coming to play our teams . I will be putting on a BBQ around 5:00 o'clock for the teams after the games . There will be some hardware for the teams to win and the hope is, it will be a yearly event .

FIELD HOUSE : We were slow out of the gate this year, but now I believe I will be able to share with the club what has been going on regarding this project . A new drawing design is in the works!! This will be presented in the very near future to the executive. There is still a lot of work to be done to see the building standing and finished but I am confident it will happen and it is my priority. I am hoping to get the design regarding the new Cub logo finalized. I brought to the executive the price for having a sign made up and it was very reasonable and made of a very durable material. This signage would or could also be placed at the turf site.

EXECUTIVE : The running of our club has been awesome. Yes we still have many things to work on regarding policy etc, but I am super positive that we will continue to get the job done . I continue to enjoy being part of this very special club and helping it come to the right decisions for our members . I would like to thank Cheri Tilley for her constant support to the club and soccer as a whole . Her support of others within our club from new arrivals to all the people who volunteer and play has been exceptional. Not to mention she know her stuff and keeps us all in line!!

Director of Women's Soccer - Paige Campbell

Currently we have two women's team representing CVUSC in the MIWSL; the Shooters and the Kickers. Both teams had successful seasons and were happy that there were less weather cancellations than last year. The Shooters had a very large roster and rarely struggled field a team for both home and away games. The Kickers however sometime struggled to muster the required numbers. This is a good representation of the women's game in the valley currently. With many of the once regular players having either

aged out or having more responsibility taking them away from the sport. We are also not seeing as many young players joining the league as before.

The plan moving forward is to try and generate more awareness in the community of the opportunity for women to play soccer in the valley. There has already been some good progress in this area by ladies within the community who have started an over-25 local summer league. The first week had forty ladies participating which is great to see. Through the combination of this league and social media and community promotion we hope to attract more women into the league.

Equipment Manager - Craig Little

- The majority of our equipment has been distributed in trust amongst coaches from House / Select / DS / Men's / Women's / Futsol / Masters programs. We are in good standing to support our projected requirements for the Fall House program. The club will likely require an order of game balls to support the upcoming Select season.
- Any remaining equipment at this time is being stored at our Ryan Rd storage unit and the turf locker. A shipment of 300 (100 each of size 3,4 & 5) new CVUSC soccer balls has just arrived and is in the process of being inflated and moved from my garage to the storage locker.
- Over the past year we were able to replenish a large number of balls that have worn out and been donated to programs of need. We purchased new pug nets, balls and flat disc markers (indoor non-slip). We also increased our futsol balls supplies to support the Futsol programming as well as Select Teams that were forced to practice indoors due to inclement weather.

The Year in Review

- Upon taking on this role an effort was made to gather all equipment from coaches following the Spring House season in order to assess equipment condition and determine requirements for the upcoming season.
- Communication with coaches and managers occurred primarily through email, with most indicating their current holdings and future requirements. Equipment was tallied in July and Select Team distribution nights occurred in mid-August. While most equipment was available, team game balls were in short supply and several teams waited until early September to receive theirs.
- Each year, through wear and tear or loss, there is a requirement to replace a percentage of our equipment inventory. Given that approximately 150-300 balls are removed from the inventory annually, it would be prudent to consider setting up an annual ball order. Given a lead time of 4 months for our last order and considering that Spring House is our largest program –September would be an ideal timeframe to place this order.

- Looking to the future, I believe that the club and its membership would benefit immensely if equipment storage were to be relocated to the clubhouse. In terms of time and from a financial perspective, it would certainly streamline equipment management.
- Finally, given the “no-fail” nature of this position, along with the immense time commitment required to ensure and maintain adequate inventories, CVUSC has wisely chosen to hire out the Equipment Manager responsibility as a paid part-time position. I have enjoyed interacting with all of you and doing my best to meet your equipment needs throughout the year. Thank-you all for your support and encouragement and all the best to my successor!

Volunteer Coordinator - James Wood

I have been the volunteer coordinator since October 2018, since my appointment with the board I have assisted with the selection and initial process for a new logo for CVUSC. I have also undertaken a few initiatives such as Player/Players of the week and the development of a sponsorship package to entice new potential club sponsors. Both above initiatives should be active prior to my departure from the valley in June.