

WHITPAIN RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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WRA Quarterly Newsletter

January 12, 2014

Message from the President

Dear WRA Parents,

In the last newsletter we talked about our Intramural Soccer volunteers. This time around, I'd like to highlight those who make our Travel Soccer program possible.

WRA Travel Soccer has 350 players playing on 25 teams from the U9 age group up to U16. The program is headed up by Committee Chairman Matt Schools, along with Operations Director Tom Reilly. Among all the positions in the WRA, heading up a sports program is the most difficult, and the amount of time that Matt and Tom put in is really mind boggling. Organizing teams, organizing schedules, arranging for field time, managing the maintenance of the field and the equipment, dealing with parents (I'm afraid that's always one of the hardest parts!), it's like running a business. A business in your "spare" time, with no profit!

Travel soccer has over 60 volunteer coaches and 25 team managers (many are long-time volunteers). For the U14 or U15 divisions, it means five or six seasons of dedicated work. The time, effort and energy that the coaches put into the program is extraordinary and greatly appreciated. Two gentlemen that have been particularly instrumental this season are Mike Bishop and Ward McMasters. Mike has been involved with the program for the past seven years. He was an assistant coach with the U9 girls then the head coach with that group from U10 through this year at U15. Mike's team had a remarkable run of success, finishing their last 4 seasons in the Inter County Soccer League without a loss. That is a span of 40 games! Mike also filled the role of Girls Coordinator for the last three seasons, where he handled all issues on the girl's side of the program and ran tryouts for the U9 teams.

Ward McMasters has been a head coach for the last 14 years, taking two different groups from U9 through U15. Over the years, Ward's teams have had countless division championships and tournament victories including, most recently, the 2012 U14 Boys Elite championship. Ward has also been the Field Coordinator for the last 7 years. In this role he developed meaningful relationships within WRA, Whitpain Township, Lower Gwynedd Township, Wissahickon High School, and Montgomery County Community College. Those relationships were instrumental in obtaining permits for practice and game field access. Ward also had the task of scheduling practice times for all the teams, no easy task when you have 26 different teams and limited practice fields.

The passion and effort that goes on behind the scenes at Travel Soccer is what makes the program so successful. Mike and Ward have led the way in recent years and without their tireless commitment Travel Soccer would not be what it is today. That said, as we move forward, we look to the new volunteers to lend a hand and move the program to new heights. A beautiful soccer park with the possibility of local tournaments, the possible development of a U8 program, fund raising, social media, equipment and uniform ordering are all areas that need to be explored to keep the program on the right path. All those things can happen if we continue to recruit and develop new volunteers. Please reach out to Matt mschools@comcast.net or Tom wfsoccer66@aol.com and let them know you are willing to help.

Our travel soccer program is devoted to the development of our young players, and our volunteers have done a tremendous job of it. Join me in thanking them, and then join them in helping out!

Pat Foley

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 IM Basketball Spotlight
- 2 Basketball night @ 76ers
- 2 Travel Basketball Spotlight
- 3 Centre Square Park Preview
- 3 Intramural Soccer Wrap-up
- 4 Intramural Soccer Divisional Champs
- 5 Thanks Intramural Soccer Sponsors
- 5 Travel Soccer Champions
- 6 Indoor Field Hockey Spotlight
- 7 Volunteering
- 7 Our Sport Offerings
- 7 Upcoming Events
- 8 WRA Winter Bash 2014-Fundraiser
- 8 How to Sponsor a team

Don't forget to register for Spring/Summer WRA sports [to Play](#) or [Sponsor a team!](#)

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Whitpain Parks and Recreation

Online registration for programs like summer camp and other events and activities in the community.

Check out and bookmark their website:

Intramural and Instructional Basketball Spotlight

Over 860 kids signed up to play WRA Intramural and Instructional Basketball this year! Commissioners and coaches of the eight intramural divisions worked hard to evaluate players in order to create balanced teams.

Intramural League

Practice started during the first week December and we look forward to games starting on Saturday, January 4th. Coaches will send out game schedules during the week of December 29. Team shirts will be distributed on Saturday, January 4.

Instructional League

The Instructional League clinics will start on Saturday, January 4. Clinics are held on Saturday afternoons at Lower Gwynedd Elementary School for 8 weeks straight. The league is divided into 3 clinic time slots. [Donn Johnston](#), the Commissioner of the Instructional League, will send an email to families by January 2. Donn's communication will provide your child's time slot.

Holiday Weekends

WRA **WILL** hold Saturday games and Instructional clinics on the Saturdays of Martin Luther King and Presidents Day weekends. Practice will not be held on the Monday holidays.

WRA Basketball Night at a Philadelphia 76ers Game

Click the Image below for more information.



TOGETHER WE BUILD

Travel Basketball Spotlight

The WRA Travel Basketball Girls 11 year old team, the Cyclones, has shown great improvement since last season and has started the 2013-14 season off with a win in their first league game. The girls received a special treat when they were invited by Matt Paul Basketball to scrimmage Ancillae Assumpta Academy at the University of Pennsylvania's Palestra on December 21st. The team then stayed at the Palestra to watch the Penn/Drexel women's game that was decided by a basket in the final seconds.



Preview of the New Centre Square Park for WRA Travel Soccer

Whitpain Board of Supervisors, WRA officials and Walsh Construction previewed the new park with members of WRA and the community on Saturday, October 19, 2013. The park won't be available for Soccer play until 2015. More information on this event and a video can be [found here via the Ambler Gazette website.](#)



Intramural Soccer Wraps Up another Season

Just before Thanksgiving the WRA Intramural Soccer program completed another great season. With Mother Nature's help, we managed to get in all scheduled games. Of course none of those games would happen without hundreds of volunteers pitching in to get the goals set up, fields lined, teams assembled and coached! When it was all over, and just before the snowfall began, the last step of removing the goals at Shady Grove was completed with the help of players Jack Galloway (our youngest volunteer!), Ambria Horne, and Jon Carrozza, along with a handful of parents.

Our Division commissioners deserve special notice for the intensive efforts they give to monitor registration and answer questions, and most importantly to assemble teams, schedule practices and games, and resolve conflicts when they arose. Those extreme volunteers for the 2013 season were Heather Maltin, Bob Graefe, Patrick Foley, Heather Kuffner, Tracy Palovich, Doug Dolfman, Tom Shea, George Crowley and John Bealin. We can't thank them enough for the awesome job they did (but won't stop trying!).

The trophy divisions were as fun as ever; we saw incredible player and team development with each game (thanks to all of your dedication, Coaches), and the final games for each division were closely contested and exciting displays of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Intramural Soccer Wraps Up another Season

Congratulations to the division champs:

4/5 Girls:

1st: **Green Team** (coach Rebecca Roeberg; asst. Kylie Roeberg, Ken Roeberg)



4/5 Girls winner the Green Team/Germer International



4/5 Boys Champions the Grey Bombers

2nd: **Purple Pancakes** (coach Kevin Kooman; asst. Chuck Wurzbach)

3rd: **Panthers** (coach Joe Piergrossi; asst. John Hartzel)

4/5 Boys:

1st: **The Grey Bombers** (Head Coach: Brett Bercich)

2nd: **The Bandits** (Head Coach: Tom Rouse)

3rd: **The Blue Warriors** (Head Coach: Bimal Mehta)

Middle School:

1st: **Team Chelsea** (Joe Rosko and Ross Cleary)

2nd: **Arsenal** (Steven Laux and Andreas Wagner)

High School:

1st: **Team Ireland** (John Bealin and Jim Cavanaugh)

2nd: **Team Germany** (Michael Meyers and Michael Piasecki)



High School Division Champs: Team Ireland

Coach Jim Cavanaugh (back row, 2nd from left); John Bealin (back row far right, Asst. Coach)

Intramural Soccer thanks their 2013 Sponsors!

WRA would like to thank the following Sponsors for their support of Intramural Soccer Fall 2013 season:

- Ambler Beverage Exchange
- Ambler Fireplace & Patio
- Andrea Loughlin Portraiture
- Andy Strosser Plumbing & Heating
- Asher's Chocolates
- Available Plumbing, Inc.
- Beneficial Bank
- Black Cat Fasteners
- Bob McGrath's Tree Service LLC
- Bucks County Orthopedic Specialists
- Canada Dry Delaware Valley
- Centennial Lending Group, LLC
- Chef Nancy
- Chuck Wurzbach (aka Wurzbach Farms & Chico's Bail Bonds) *
- Continental Bank
- Cozen O'Connor
- Cross Works Embroidery
- EC Bones, Inc
- Elliott Greenleaf Law
- Eric S. Hans, DMD Dentistry for Children
- Fels Supply Co. Wholesale Blinds & Flooring 610-277-7050
- Fitlife
- Gen3 Marketing
- Germer International
- HockeyBuzz.com
- InsuranceShopperPA.com
- K & S Concepts Group
- Kelman and Magliari
- Keystone Volvo
- Kiera's Lawn Service
- Law Office of Brian Scott Dietrich, PC
- Licelifters.com
- Moore & Riemenschneider
- Morgan Stanley, Brendan Dwyer Financial Advisor
- Mr. Storage
- Nello Construction
- OnCall Physician Staffing *
- Panther East *
- Philadelphia D & M
- Power Line Packaging, Inc.
- R/J Florig Industrial Company
- Security On-Line Systems, Inc. *
- Sports Unlimited
- Stelzer Dental
- The Foley Group/Baird
- The Law Office of Jackie Chiles
- The Senderling Group
- Tim J. Berman, CPA
- Waffle Cabin OC
- Weinberg Law
- YoJones Yogurt

*Indicates a special debt of gratitude to those that sponsored 2 teams!

Travel Soccer ICSL Elite Division Champions!



Whitpain United – U15 girls – 2013 ICSL Elite Division Champions

Rear (L-R): Carly Schwartz (D), Emily Williams (M), Caroline Trejo (M), Nicole Hastings (G,M), Dominique Pasquarella (M), Coach Bishop
 Center (L-R): Ragan Ebersole (M), Rachel Coleman (CM), Jen Dietrich (G, S), Robyn Rhindress (stopper), Haley Aronow (S)
 Bottom (L-R): Coach Unipan (also old), Michela Coleman (sweeper), Jasmine Bishop (S), Gabby Unipan (CM), Lauren McHale (S),
 Regan Ryan (D) Not Pictured - Rebecca Saunders

Indoor Field Hockey Season Spotlight

The Indoor Field Hockey season began on November 25. Games are played on Monday nights at the Field House at Germantown Academy. The season runs through February 3 for the Junior and Intermediate divisions. The Senior division finishes on February 10 with an end-of-season tournament.

The Field Hockey Committee wishes to thank Wissahickon High School senior and WRA alum Angela Virtu, who is supporting all aspects of the Indoor program as her graduation project. Thank you also to the dedicated parents who help out each week with setting up and tearing down the courts, and thank you to our generous sponsors:

- Great Point LLC (Robertson Family)
- Capstone Insurance Group (McGill Family)
- Guardian Nurses Healthcare Advocates (Burleigh Family)
- Mr. Storage (Gilmore Family)
- BPG Racing (Sinon Family)
- Elliott Greenleaf Law (Elliott Family)
- Bradford White Water Heaters (Carnevale Family)
- runthelongroad.com (Campbell Family)
- Sports Unlimited
- Anytime Fitness Plymouth-Norristown
- Slawek Orthodontics
- The Schiff Dental Group

Junior Division in action



Intermediate Division in action



Senior Division in action



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Volunteering

We exist solely because of the efforts of dozens of volunteers, including (but not limited to) board members, commissioners, coaches, equipment managers, referees and web managers.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Come out and help in any way you can. Contact one of the league chairs for help in matching your availability and interests with a role in WRA:

Baseball/Softball: Mike Basile, mbasile6@aol.com

Intramural/Instructional Basketball: Jess McVeigh, jessmcveigh13@yahoo.com

Travel Basketball: Chris Hynes, chris.hynes@vertexinc.com

Field Hockey: Pat Guaglianone, patguag@msn.com
Lisa Becker, lbecker58@hotmail.com

Intramural Soccer: Dave Frank davidwfrank@verizon.net

Travel Soccer: Matt Schools, mschools@comcast.net



Visit us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/WRAsports>

Upcoming Events

Month of January:

- Instructional Basketball begins
- Outdoor Field Hockey Registration Closes
- WRA Annual Fundraiser ticket sales begins

Month of February:

- Spring Baseball Intramural 8-12 yr old Evaluations take place.
- Spring Baseball Intramural Draft - Teams formed
- Outdoor Field Hockey Registration ends
- Indoor field Hockey Season ends
- WRA Annual Fundraiser.

Month of March:

- Travel Soccer Registration and Tryouts begin
- Intramural, Instructional, and Travel Basketball Seasons end.
- Outdoor Field Hockey Season begins.
- Spring Baseball Intramural Practice begins.
- Travel Soccer Volunteers solicited.

Our Sports Offerings

Baseball

Spring Intramural for kids ages 5 to 12 years old as of April 30, 2014.

Spring Boys Travel teams for kids ages 13 to 19 years old.
Spring Tee Ball for 5 and 6 year old boys/girls.

Basketball

Instructional Basketball for experienced & new boys/girls in grades 1 to 3.

Intramural Basketball for Boys in Grade Levels 3 to 12 & for Girls in Grade Levels 3 to 8.

Travel Basketball For Boys age 9-13 years old & Girls ages 9-12 years old.

Field Hockey

Winter program: (3rd grade thru 11th grade)

Registration begins in September

Programs running late November thru early February.

Spring program: (1st grade thru 11th grade)

Registration begins in January

Programs running mid-March thru early June.

Soccer

Fall Intramural - Boys and girls ages 4 to 18

Travel - Boys and girls ages 9 to 17

Softball

For Boys & girls ages 7 through 12.



Coming in 2015 for WRA Travel Soccer

Annual Fundraiser—WRA Winter Bash 2014!



Tickets are \$50 per person and include food, wine and beer, and DJ entertainment (more details below). A terrific entertainment value at a prime local venue, for a great cause

To register, sign onto your family account on our website: <http://www.wrasports.org>, select an adult on your account and click on "Register to Play/Participate", and you will see another "Register" button under information about the party (ignore the "cost: \$0.00" listing, as the price is \$50 per guest). Follow instructions from there to register for the "WRA Winter Bash 2014".

In Addition; special recognition will be proved for those willing to offer the following levels of support for the WRA Donation question during registration:

- **\$60 - WRA Silver Supporter**
- **\$80 – WRA Gold Supporter**
- **\$100 - WRA Platinum Supporter**

Please sign up soon, as ticket availability will be limited. We promise a casual, fun, sociable evening in support of youth sports in Whitpain! [Click here for a PDF flyer to share with friends.](#)

WHO: Whitpain Recreation Association members, families, friends and relatives.

WHEN: Friday 2/21/2014 8:00pm-Midnight

WHERE: [Blue Bell Country Club Grand Ballroom.](#)

WHY: WRA Winter Bash; A night of appreciation for volunteers and fun for all parents!

- Live DJ
- Casual dress code
- Raffle prizes
- Buffet Menu includes:
 - Caesar Salad, Potato Salad and Cole slaw
 - Roast Beef au Jus
 - Pasta Station featuring Penne & Cheese Ravioli w/Pink Vodka Sauce.
 - Choice of grilled Vegetables, Parmesan Cheese, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Fresh Basil & Roasted Peppers.
 - Cookies, Pretzels and chips.
 - Beverages: water, coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Wine and Beer are included.
- Cash bar will be available for cocktails.

CONTACT Joe Smallberger at projects4joe@gmail.com if you would like to contribute an item for the Raffle.

You are receiving this email because you registered at Whitpain Recreation Association. TO UNSUBSCRIBE, login to your WRA account and check off the box to opt out of emails or simply delete your account. Our contact information is: info@wrasports.org Whitpain Recreation Association PO BOX 64 BLUE BELL PA 19422-0064 Copyright (C) Whitpain Recreation Association All rights reserved

How to Sponsor:

WRA is always looking for Sponsors for our teams. What a great way to get your organization or business's name out in the community by supporting our kids.

Your Business or Organizations name can be proudly displayed on our player's uniforms worn at all WRA games the team you sponsor participates in!

For the nominal price of \$175 per team, we can put your sponsorship to print. In return you will receive acknowledgement at the end of the season from WRA in the form of a certificate, plaque award and/or team photo proudly displaying your business or organization.

INSTRUCTIONS to get started sponsoring today:

Register online at www.wrasports.org

1. Click on the 'Register Now' Tab
2. Click on the 'Login/register' button.
3. Once logged in, Click on 'Register' under Account Options, on the right.
4. Select yourself as the registrant
5. Then click on 'Register Now' button under the Sport Sponsorship you want and complete the Checkout process

Want to pay by check? Simply fill out the web form by clicking [HERE](#), print and mail the form with your payment to:

WRA Sports
PO Box 64
Blue Bell, PA 19422-0064

The Whitpain Recreation Association is a Non-Profit Organization of adult volunteers committed to firmly implanting the ideals of good sportsmanship, citizenship, community involvement, and spirited athletic participation in the boys and girls of our community.

Visit us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/WRAsports>