

## **President's Report**

### **LISC Annual Meeting March 14, 2007**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2007 Annual Meeting. As we enter our milestone 25<sup>th</sup> year, we owe much gratitude to the founders of the Club and the many coaches, directors and volunteers who have made LISC what it is today. LISC has made a profound and singular contribution to soccer in Central Illinois. The Club has provided training and competitive soccer to hundreds if not thousands of boys and girls. Our players have participated in tournaments throughout Illinois and the Midwest and many teams have had the wonderful experience of playing abroad. The rosters of many area high school soccer programs are well represented by LISC players. Many LISC athletes have gone on to play college soccer. Our spring and fall tournaments showcase our Club and our community. There is much more that could be said, but suffice it to say, we have much to celebrate during our silver anniversary.

There are many positive developments to report to the membership. First and foremost, our soccer program is in great shape. Our Director of Coaching, Mike Kobylinski, has made many significant changes in the short time he has served our Club. Mike has instituted a training curriculum for all age groups. The curriculum has incorporated the latest training techniques and has improved the conditioning and skills of our players. The development of a winter training session has allowed our players to sharpen their skills and improve their fitness instead of losing ground in those areas over the winter months. This has made our Club more competitive in the short term and it will be exciting to see how the players will benefit after many years of this high quality training.

Mike has compiled a first rate coaching staff and has introduced a club wide training approach that should yield consistent results as the players progress through the Club. The coaches have participated in many clinics and certification courses. Mike has

also set up clinics with the excellent coaching staff from Eastern Illinois University to provide more insight and fresh ideas. Mike and the entire coaching staff should be commended for providing the highest quality of training to all players.

While the Club has yet to acquire its own fields or training facility, we have made much progress in this area as well. Mike has set up rental agreements with the Champaign and Urbana Park Districts that give us access to some excellent fields for practices and games. This is a far cry from the days when teams had to fight for practice space in the open areas around Parkland College. We are also fortunate to have access to the Urbana National Guard Armory and the Savoy Rec Center for indoor training.

The Club fields 22 teams and has more players than any time in our history. We offer scholarship opportunities to many players from low income families. Thanks to Robert Baird, the Club has a website, [www.liscsoccer.com](http://www.liscsoccer.com), that provides players and parents with information regarding practice and game schedules, recognition of teams, contact information, and links to other sites.

In sum, LISC is fulfilling its primary mission of providing excellent soccer to boys and girls of all age groups.

The Board of Directors has devoted much time and effort to improving the structural organization of the Club. We held a strategic planning session in February to evaluate the Club and develop a plan for the future. The Board identified five areas of Club development. These areas, which were discussed in more detail in the LISC Board Message distributed earlier this year, include: (1) Facilities; (2) Funding/Sponsorship; (3) Tournaments; (4) Club Betterment/Marketing; and (5) Growth of Players and Coaches.

It was decided to form committees to oversee each of these five areas. In the past, the individual directors assumed most of the responsibility for management of the Club, and it was determined that these committees could furnish more manpower and resources to accomplish our objectives. All members are once again encouraged to volunteer for these committees and contribute any ideas or resources to help us meet our goals.

In closing, there is much good news to report to the membership. The Club has come a long way since its inception in 1982. We are stronger than ever and the future is bright. However, there is much that we can and should do to make our Club even better and the Board looks forward to working with the membership in achieving our common goals. Best of luck to all teams for a successful 2007 season.