



# The Hurricane

A newsletter for the players and families of the Harleysville Soccer Association

March 2009

Harleysville Soccer Association—Intramural, Travel, and TOPS

2009 Season, Issue 1

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## The Opening Tap

By Renée Sullivan, President, Harleysville Soccer Association (HSA)

**Greetings!** This will be a year of big transitions for Harleysville Soccer. As with any transition, this presents both challenges & opportunities. As I begin my 1st year as president of the club, we say goodbye to 3 long-term board members (*we wish you all well!*), and welcome 2 new members to the board. While it is wonderful to have new people with new ideas joining us, we can't stop here. Harleysville Soccer has a pressing need for more widespread help from our soccer families to keep our intramural program strong. In addition to volunteer coaching roles, we have myriad "behind the scenes" activities that need to be tended to. It is these setup and coordination activities that keep our whole intramural program running. The more people involved, the easier the job overall. When you register your child for soccer this year, please remember to **volunteer if you can**. If you have an interest in helping in a larger capacity, please contact me directly at (215) 565-6329 or send email to [Sullivan\\_renee@emc.com](mailto:Sullivan_renee@emc.com).

Many improvements brought to the intramural program in recent years will again be offered. The **TOPSoccer** program, designed for children ages 4 through 19 who have mental and/or physical difficulties, will continue. It is so terrific to see all the volunteers who support this program, making this a huge success for the dozens of athletes who participate. **Small-sided games** for our U6-U12 age divisions has been a success, and we will continue this format. Our experiment with a Fall League did not bring enough registrants; in 2009 we will go back to an **All Summer Program**, and the older teams will be grouped into U15 and U18 age divisions. Further details can be found on our web site.

Despite being rained out part-way through the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, the 5<sup>th</sup> **Annual Rob Schaefer Memorial Classic Tournament** was a rousing success. The tradition continues this year – mark your calendars for this year's tourney on August 8-9, 2009. Please consider joining in the fun by volunteering to help organize, run, and staff this great tribute to Rob. The proceeds fund a scholarship award for a college-bound player from our club. Last year the Rob Schaefer Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Evan Gabel, who is now a freshman at Clarkson University.

**HSA Board Meetings** are held the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Salford Township building. We invite you to attend and participate! Check the Calendar posted on our web site ([www.harleysvillesoccer.org](http://www.harleysvillesoccer.org)) to confirm the exact meeting dates and times.

We send a big **Thank You** to each of the many local businesses who support our program with their sponsorship. They are listed in this newsletter and on our web site. Please support our sponsors with your patronage throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Board Meeting and on the fields.

**Have a great soccer season!!** *Renée Sullivan, President*

## Coaches, Mark Your Calendars: Coaching Clinics Scheduled in June

Mini coaching clinics will be held on the following days in June. The sessions will take place at the **Indian Valley Middle School** (130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville). Time TBA.

- ◆ Saturday June 6
- ◆ Saturday June 13
- ◆ Saturday June 20

Calendar						
June 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

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## WE THANK YOU!



Bookmark our web site:  
[www.harleysvillesoccer.org](http://www.harleysvillesoccer.org)

Have questions, or want to volunteer? Send email to:  
[info@harleysvillesoccer.org](mailto:info@harleysvillesoccer.org)

## The Hurricane

### Programs at a Glance—July to September 2009 Season

**Intramural:** Designed to introduce young players to the sport. The Intramural league teaches technical skills & knowledge of the game in a fun and age-appropriate way. Training & games are based on physical & mental development of the players using the small-sided games model for ages 4-9, gradually increasing team and field sizes as players grow older. Ages 10 and older may also play against neighboring clubs partway through the season. Children ages 4 to 17

SEASON	AGE GROUP	DOB RANGE	FEE
Summer	U6 Coed (Sat)	08-01-2003 thru 07-31-2005	\$85
Intramural	U8 Coed (Mon/Wed)	08-01-2001 thru 07-31-2003	\$85
	U8 Coed (Tues/Thurs)	08-01-2001 thru 07-31-2003	\$85
	U10 Boys (Mon/Wed)	08-01-1999 thru 07-31-2001	\$85
	U10 Girls (Tues/Thurs)	08-01-1999 thru 07-31-2001	\$85
	U12 Boys (Mon/Wed)	08-01-1997 thru 07-31-1999	\$85
	U12 Girls (Tues/Thurs)	08-01-1997 thru 07-31-1999	\$85
	U15 Boys (Mon/Wed)	08-01-1994 thru 07-31-1997	\$85
	U15 Girls (Tues/Thurs)	08-01-1994 thru 07-31-1997	\$85
	U18 Coed (Days of Play TBD)	08-01-1991 thru 07-31-1994	\$85
	TopSoccer	TOPSoccer (Fri)	08-01-1990 thru 07-31-2005

**TOPSoccer:** "The Outreach Program for Soccer" is designed for school-aged children with physical and/or mental disabilities. The program helps serve the physical & social needs of our community's children who want to participate in fun activities, but who, because of their disabilities, may feel left out of traditional sports programs. This 8-week season of soccer training and games is taught by caring adult and high school volunteers. Teams are divided based on the age & ability of participants attending on a given day.

## Travel Soccer Update

**Welcome!** We are thrilled to welcome Kyle Rush as Director of Training. Kyle is currently the men's coach at Ursinus College and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our club. Check out Kyle's resume at [www.harleysvillesoccer.org](http://www.harleysvillesoccer.org).

**About Our Program:** Harleysville Travel Soccer teams play in the most competitive leagues in the region (girls play in the Philadelphia Area Girls Soccer (PAGS) league, and the boys will (most likely) play in the DELCO Soccer League next fall). Harleysville Travel Soccer has several very strong teams who play at a high level, thanks to the outstanding dedication of the players, their families' commitment to soccer, and our dedicated and expert coaches and trainers. These teams comprise our **PREMIER** program. All of our travel teams will be known as **Harleysville FC** (Harleysville Football Club), and some known as **Harleysville United** or **HFC Premier**. To be labeled a 'premier' team in Harleysville the team must compete in a top division of a top league such as DELCO or PAGS.

**It Takes Commitment:** Travel Soccer is for players who desire to compete at a higher level of play and prepare themselves for High School teams and beyond. Attendance at practice, training sessions, and Fall League and State Cup games is **required**. Many of our players are excellent athletes who compete in multiple sports. However, if players truly want to become better soccer players then a commitment is essential - from both the players and their parents - to the Harleysville Travel Soccer team, coach, and program. It is expected that Harleysville Travel Soccer FC and HFC Premier players must attend the practice sessions throughout the entire summer; this is when preparations are at their peak for the start of the fall season. Brief exceptions can be made for family vacations and such, but this must be minimal.

Keep in mind that the practice schedule is typically 2 nights per week over the summer, all summer. Athletes who also plan to play summer intramural basketball and/or fall baseball need to decide which takes priority - and only sign up if Travel Soccer is the priority. This may require that a "family decision" be made at this point. Needless to say, it is our hope that our veteran players and families will choose soccer as their primary fall sport!

**Supporting Our Program:** While we have a strong program, we can make it stronger. We strive to gather additional support from local governments for field expansion; enhance the support of our parents and players; and add more active volunteers. A majority of SAHS players (boys and girls) come through our program and are the better for it. Last year we had over 20 players receive some type of college soccer scholarship and our club is very proud of their accomplishments.

We will be expanding our fundraising efforts as a club to expand and improve our development programs for both coaches and players - please lend your support whenever possible. Most significantly, **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!** Please ask your coach how you can help.

**A Winning Combination:** While wins and losses are not our main focus, we find that when we train and teach our coaches and players both the needed skills along with true sportsmanship, the winning seems to take care of itself. Players should play at a level that is dictated by their abilities, and Travel Soccer offers the perfect level of challenge for some. Perhaps most importantly, Travel Soccer is **LOTS OF FUN!**