

BCGESS: Vice President Report – 2022

VP duties have been somewhat easier this year, with covid restrictions not having such an impact as in 2020 and 2021. Fields were a bigger challenge, as outlined below.

It has also been great to have Jim Campbell come onboard as registrar, and gradually take over roster approvals, and preparing our data submission for BC Soccer. He will need help from managers to complete that this month.

Fields

- Field options were researched in the fall/winter, but most field providers would not make firm bookings until spring.
- We secured School District grass fields for April thru June, and were able to get mostly turf from late June thru to August.
- Grass field conditions and lining were mixed this year. In trying address these, it was clear that operations staff were prioritizing covid-related “catch-up” work over fields.
- We abandoned Arbutus as unsafe, and played thru difficult conditions at Mt. Doug. Claremont and Victor Brodeur were good, and could have been used into July.
- Two of our usual turf fields were not available this year. Finlayson was under reconstruction, and Hampton was being used by a new Gorge program.
- UVic and PISE turf is expensive [plus parking costs!], and we look forward to using Finlayson in 2023, and hopefully regained access to Hampton or other comparable fields

Teams and Schedules

- 18 teams returned in 2021. Labour Rangers returned after missing 2021. Forests unfortunately decided to withdraw from the league after being an “original six” team..
- The over-40s scrimmage, which was very successful in 2019, never achieved critical mass last year or this year, and was merged with an over-48 men’s scrimmage.
- The August 6th windup event was modified to 3 games of 7-aside on 1 day, and retained 15 teams. A large number of teams had said they could not field teams for 11 aside.
- A number of teams have struggled for numbers, and it has been encouraging to see a high level of cooperation in finding players when needed. This is an area where we can do more in future, and which will help develop a stronger community in the league.

Hu Wallis

August 4, 2022