

Dear Carleton Place Soccer Club Member:

There has been a lot of discussion in recent weeks about the future of competitive soccer in our community, and about the 'Mississippi United' program in particular. As you know, Mississippi United has been a joint effort of the Carleton Place Soccer Club and the Almonte Soccer Club through 2007 and 2008, with the primary objective of providing an opportunity for players from the CPSC and the ASC to play competitive soccer within the East Region Soccer League (ERSL).

Our Club's Board of Directors had hoped that the MU initiative would offer a chance to improve competitive soccer for players from our area, but there were many problems through the first two years of operation. The problems were serious, including issues with the conduct of tryouts, player and coach selections to teams and conduct of Coaches throughout the season. The structure of the management system that oversaw the Mississippi United program made it very difficult to effectively administer the program. At the end of August, 2008, the MU Management Committee presented a proposal to restructure the Committee with the hope that the MU program could be run more effectively and efficiently. Following lengthy discussion of the proposal, the Board of Directors of CPSC was not convinced that continuation of the MU was in the best interest of the CPSC and voted, in September, to end our Club's participation in Mississippi United.

Members attending the CPSC Annual General Meeting in late November directed the Board of Directors to reconsider its decision and reopen negotiations with the Almonte Soccer Club with the goal of restoring 'Mississippi United' for the 2009 season. The CPSC established a 4 person committee to develop a new Affiliation Agreement that would, hopefully, address the issues of the past 2 years. Through the month of December, representatives of each Club have met, discussed the issues at length, and prepared proposals for an Affiliation Agreement, but in the end, an agreement could not be reached on how to continue operating Mississippi United as a joint initiative of both Clubs. Accordingly, the CPSC has accepted the recommendation of the negotiating committee not to implement the MU initiative for 2009.

I apologize for not having notified you sooner about what has been happening, but the situation has been constantly changing and I wanted to make sure that I had something definitive to report.

The Carleton Place Soccer Club will continue to offer ERSL competitive soccer to our youth players, providing players from Carleton Place and the surrounding area with the opportunity to play on teams from U-9 through U-18 in 2009 and beyond. Our players and Coaches will continue to receive the best possible support of the Club, through training, development and competitive opportunities. As in the past, we will conduct try-outs for players and evaluation of Coaches for teams at all age levels through February and March of 2009.

The Club's on-line registration system will be ready for your use by January 1st, and I urge you to register your returning or prospective competitive players early to make sure they are included on tryout lists for their age groups. Further information will be e-mailed to you as soon as it is available, and will be posted on the Club's Web site at <http://cpsc.carletonplace.com>.

Now that the situation has been finalized, with each Club deciding to go its separate way, the Board of Directors will be able to put all of its energy into making the Carleton Place Soccer Club the very best it

can be. We will take steps in 2009 to improve each of our programs -- ERSL, Goulbourn-Lanark Soccer League (GLSL), Soccer School and Ottawa-Carleton Soccer League (OCSL).

We are fortunate that new individuals have stepped up to help move the Club forward, but we will need the participation of all members to make the Club as successful as it can be. Whether as a Coach or Assistant Coach (with training and certification provided by the Club), Team Manager, Referee or helping in some other way, your support is needed and very much appreciated.

Please stay tuned for further developments, and in the meantime the Board of Directors and officials of the Carleton Place Soccer Club hope you had a happy holiday and hope you have a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Ruben Vella, President
Carleton Place Soccer Club