

Alliance News September 2009.

Greetings all Soccer Families,

I wanted to take a moment to get everyone up to date on what is happening at FC Alliance. I am sure I will forget some things but as always I want to thank all of you for being a part of FC Alliance. Great things continue to happen as I will briefly outline below and I will put on my president's hat for a few friendly but firm reminders.

First, what a great tournament we had! Last weekend we had 113 teams compete which I believe is the second largest tournament ever in Knoxville. Overall it was a great success. There are so many people that need to be thanked and invariably someone gets left out but I do want to mention a few people by name. Kim Ryan and again I say Kim Ryan. If you see her you should definitely give her a big hug and thanks. She organized us, sorted us, scored us and sent us out. Great Job Kim! I also want to thank Todd Olson who always works hard at our tournaments and help Kim with all the details. To all the site directors, field marshals, t-shirt sellers etc. I also give my thanks. Thanks to Mancino's for handling the concessions, Chris Stafford for arranging the AYSO fields, Johnny Long for letting us use his field and our new partner US Cellular for the use of their complex. Finally thanks to all of our families who greeted our guests, picked up a piece of trash, chased a ball into the creek or the bull off the field. We could not do this without everyone's help.

Second, I hope you have noticed all the field improvements we have made especially at Academy Park. We should have some tall netting up soon (last word we are right at \$1000 short to finish the project) to contain all the stray balls. The barrier is up at Carl Cowen, fence repaired at Alliance (should have new gates soon), signs up all over, the fields have been sanded and fertilized and look great. After a one month delay, we should have final approval on our assuming management of the US Cellular complex next month. I would like to mention about scheduling to use the fields. If you want to use or practice on Alliance, Academy, Carl Cowen or Nicholas Ball, you must contact Allen Fincher. Our web site contains a a calendar which includes a field schedule. We are fine tuning the calendar but please go through Finchy. For all US Cellular fields you must contact Mike Kelleher. Once again a calendar will be created to keep up with those fields as well.

Third, I will briefly review the last Board meeting. The finance committee reports that all our bills are paid and up to date. So far with the excellent preseason camp and Fall tournament we should be a little ahead on our budget. Colleen Webb was happy to report that our new web site is up and running. I would encourage all teams to set up their individual pages. Colleen will be happy to meet with you and get you started. The safety committee reminds us : make sure all goals are secured at all times. We should have some more durable sand bags on site everywhere in the next couple of weeks. Alliance Gear is here! You probably saw some at the tournament and it is also available on the web site. Mike Holt and Mike Hamil have finalized our sponsorship program—go forth and find us some sponsors—all donations to the club are tax deductible. Our directors reported that training is going well with the caveat that our increase in players has put some strain on our coaching staff with our coach to player ratio being a little higher that we like in some sessions. We will continue to recruit qualified coaches. Skills and

goal keeper training is up and running and I would encourage you to make use of those opportunities. We are also looking to have a club wide meeting (Annual General Meeting) in late October or Early November. If anyone knows of a venue we could use I would appreciate you letting me know. **Finally (I will put my president's hat on) We must collect all club dues by Oct 10. If your team does not pay in full by Oct 10 then we will pull your registration with Tennessee State Soccer and your team will no longer be able to play. Further you will no longer have a coach. I hate to be an Ogre but without the cash flow we cannot maintain the program.**

Now for the most exciting news of the day:

Let's begin with the latest in a long list of incredible opportunities headed our way, **Johnny Long's Training Academy**. For years, our club has sought a high quality S.A.Q. training alternative for our membership. Unbelievably, Johnny Long (University of Tennessee Strength and Conditioning Coach) has decided to open up a training facility on Hardin Valley road within a few miles of most of our facilities. The facility already includes a full sized soccer field and ground has recently been broken on a _____ square foot complex to include an indoor turf training facility, state of the art training equipment, a full sized outdoor soccer field, a video camera system for recording games, a video room where teams can review tape of their games, office space that they will allow FC Alliance to use and space from which to sell our gear! Further, they have contacted us and want to form a relationship whereby we would be the exclusive "Soccer Club that they support". They would like to advertise our name on their sign out on Hardin Valley as the "Home of FC Alliance". This is all quite fantastic! We already have a few teams testing out the training and in the next weeks, Jon Schneider will be getting some of our older teams in front of Johnny Long to see about starting some programs for them ASAP as they work through their fall season. We would then cycle the rest of the membership through some informational meetings...should be a huge win for us!!!!

This is the type of thing that will take all our players and teams to the next level. We are finalizing the details and pricing but I can tell you as someone who has spent a lot of time and money in SAQ type training, this is a tremendous opportunity at incredible value.

Odds and ends: we are continuing to build our relationship with the UT Lady Vols. Two Lady Vols, Kylee Rossi and Alissa Vonderhaar, are now coaching with us and are a great hit with the teams. Don't forget to use our web site. More and more information is being put on everyday. We are always looking for pictures and brief articles to post. Keep checking the site to keep up on all things Alliance.

See you on the pitch,

Randy for the Board of Directors.