

# Soccer's a great game so let the players play

To the editor,

I've been following the sports section of the Acton Tanner closely and as a b-U16 soccer player I'm confused about the write-ups on the recent B-U16 soccer tournament. First of all, the printed scores for the tournament are all messed up and many other players agree with me.

I'm also confused by what anyone is trying to accom-

plish by putting Bolton down. All that is being accomplished by printing this info is putting more tension between Acton and Bolton, and it's common knowledge that Acton and Bolton supporters make themselves quite known as it is.

What happens when Bolton and Acton play each other in future years? Is this the way to make the teams happy with each other?

Now, I'm not saying the ref's decision in ending the final game was a bad one, because you can't change the past, but we can change the future. Something I have noticed about soccer games I have played is that when the ref lets the game go smoothly, and doesn't stop to call every single little push or shove, everything is better; the game is quicker, the players forget their grudges because they have to concentrate on playing.

If the play stops, then the players have time to get each others number and get ready to tackle them the next time they're nearby. All players will agree that there are some serious violations that need to be called, but the point of the ref is to keep the game in order, not to put all the attention on his/herself by making a call that could have been left and no players would have even bothered to second guess.

Soccer is a great game. Let the players play, with no outside interference.

Jared Reinders

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## Letters

### Contrary to September 13 letter Soccer Club has few complaints

Acton Soccer Club is pleased to offer recreational soccer fun to the people of Acton at prices lower than many other towns in the area. We are Acton's largest sporting club, and growing. We do this through the efforts of volunteers, with help from the Town of Halton Hills and numerous corporate sponsors, many of which are family-owned businesses in Acton. For example, the Tanner has provided excellent coverage for our Club for many years.

The club is one of very few soccer organizations to participate in the JustPlay initiative, which is a group of programs that ensure that youth sports (primarily hockey) remain fun by using advanced coaching techniques and structure of programs. Acton Soccer Club is also in compliance with all legal, ethical and discipline rules, including implementation of volunteer screening well beyond the requirements of OSA and the Government. We have a code of conduct, we have certified discipline specialists beyond what is mandated by our governing organizations, and we keenly participate in initiatives as a good citizen of the community.

For example, we participate in the JumpStart program for disadvantaged families, and we have been an enthusiastic partner with the Town of Halton Hills and the Acton

Agricultural Society in developing new facilities for affordable fun. Next year, our programs are being extended to include outdoor recreational adult soccer (with emphasis on fun), and right now, we are offering indoor soccer in the Dufferin Centre in conjunction with Georgetown Youth Soccer Club.

To see a letter wrongly attacking the reputation of the club is disappointing as it devalues the efforts of volunteers, members and supporters, and so the many inaccuracies in Mr. Tysoe's letter of Thursday, Sept 13 simply cannot pass without comment. I won't address all the inaccuracies, just the most important ones.

Soccer is a fun game, but during play, naturally competitive teenagers sometimes behave poorly. The rules of the game are set up to deal with this, in a framework defined by the Ontario Soccer Association. The OSA disciplinary process has specific requirements that may not be ignored by members (such as Acton Soccer Club, its players, and officials). This works both ways: to ensure that disciplinary standards are properly upheld, and also to ensure that persons facing charges are treated fairly.

The letter published last week makes various claims such as "expressions of concern by parents and others

to Acton Soccer Club" were "received with limited enthusiasm". This is absolutely false. The total number of complaints thus received this season was three, with one match accounting for two of these. Far from taking such complaints lightly, I asked the president of Bolton Wanderers Soccer Club to investigate, and he confirmed with the referee that the cards issued during the game were all that was required. The action taken was the suspension of a player who received a dismissal (red) card, in accord with the OSA rules. Note that two players received cards during that game: one from Acton (yellow), and one from Bolton (red).

One week after this game, bearing in mind the complaints by the two Acton parents, the NPHSL Discipline Chair observed the Bolton team's last game of the season, which proceeded without incident. This was a pro-active initiative on the part of NPHSL.

Another six days later, on August 26, Acton SC hosted the NPHSL Under-16 Boys championship. Eight teams attended, until to the horror of all present, the final was abandoned due to a spectator threatening an assistant referee. This is a very unusual event at a soccer match. As such, it has been treated very seriously by NPHSL and by Bolton Wanderers Soccer Club, which is taking action against some of their members.

It is not whole clubs that are guilty of causing such problems, but individuals. It does not take many people behaving poorly to spoil an event. However, it is the job of fair-minded people to determine facts and address problems properly, rather than making sweeping generalizations. Through good management, the number of significant incidents is very low and the soccer community continually strives to do even better. This year, eight Bolton teams played in NPHSL and seven played without incident.

I am confident that the actions taken by Acton SC, NPHSL, and Bolton Wanderers will be sufficient to ensure that next season proceeds smoothly without a repeat of incidents of this kind, and that about 1,000 Acton SC youth and adult players will enjoy games in Acton and area.

Ian Watson  
President, Acton SC  
President, NPHSL



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*It is with great pleasure that Ray and Davida Ingleson of Rockwood announce the marriage of their daughter Kristina to Kevin Crosgrey, son of Helen and the late Charles Crosgrey of Brampton.*

*The wedding will take place at sea on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 3:30pm in the chapel aboard the Caribbean Princess.*

*After returning from their honeymoon cruise a reception and dinner will be held in their honour.*

*Love and Congratulations  
Mom and Dad*