



# Thunder- Struck



TSC News

November 2001

[www.thundersoccerclub.org](http://www.thundersoccerclub.org)

## Winter/Spring 2001-2002 Dates

- December 1** – Thunder Threes Begins (See Article)  
**January** – Thunder Futsal - To Be Announced  
**January 15** – Team Spring Club Dues Deadline  
**April 6 – June 11** - WAGS & NCSL Seasons  
**April 7/8**- Daylight Savings - Set Clocks Forward  
**April 27 & 28** – State Cup Round Robin  
**April 7** – THUNDER Micro Soccer - To Be Announced  
**April 28 & 29** – State Cup Round Robin  
**Mid May** - THUNDER Tryouts - Check Web Site  
**June 1 & 2** – State Cup Finals

## **BALTIMORE BLAST**

Baltimore Arena Tickets \$11-\$17  
Sat, Nov. 17, 2001 7:35 PM Philadelphia at Baltimore  
Wed, Nov. 21, 2001 7:05 PM Cleveland at Baltimore  
Sat, Dec. 01, 2001 7:35 PM Milwaukee at Baltimore  
Fri, Dec. 07, 2001 7:35 PM Milwaukee at Baltimore  
Dec. 15, 2001 7:35 PM Cleveland at Baltimore  
Fri, Jan. 04, 2002 7:35 PM Philadelphia at Baltimore  
Sat, Jan. 12, 2002 7:35 PM Harrisburg at Baltimore  
Fri, Jan. 25, 2002 7:35 PM Cleveland at Baltimore  
Sat, Jan. 26, 2002 7:35 PM Kansas City at Baltimore  
Fri, Feb. 01, 2002 7:35 PM Milwaukee at Baltimore  
Sat, Feb. 02, 2002 7:35 PM Harrisburg at Baltimore  
Wed, Feb. 13, 2002 7:05 PM Philadelphia at Baltimore  
Fri, Mar. 01, 2002 7:35 PM Philadelphia at Baltimore  
Sat, Mar. 02, 2002 7:35 PM Milwaukee at Baltimore  
Fri, Mar. 22, 2002 7:35 PM Philadelphia at Baltimore  
Sun, Mar. 24, 2002 3:05 PM Harrisburg at Baltimore  
Fri, Mar. 29, 2002 7:35 PM Kansas City at Baltimore  
Sat, Apr. 06, 2002 7:35 PM Harrisburg at Baltimore  
Sat, Apr. 13, 2002 7:35 PM Cleveland at Baltimore

## "STUFFED STOCKING RAFFLE"

*Get ready, get set, lets GO!!!!!!*

A "Stuffed Stocking Raffle" fund raiser is up and running. Three stockings will be stuffed with items such as car washes, barbies, tech deck, oil changes, computer training, car detailing, and gift certificates from a variety of places and organizations. (All 3 stockings will be identical). Stockings will be valued at approx. \$1,000.00. A list of items with contributing merchants will accompany raffle tickets to advertise for all those contributing.

You may be wondering why you should participate in this or any fund raiser!! The club is trying to keep club dues at a reasonable cost. Fund raising helps do just that. There are also other benefits, such as trainers for coaches who request them and goalie training to name a few.

Individual **incentives** are also being offered. The seller of the winning tickets - Yes that could be you!! will win either \$100.00 cash or Club dues valuing \$125.00 paid for the upcoming season. There is also a possible team incentive for the team selling the most tickets. This is still in the workings and information will be passed down through your team manager. Feel free to contact Patti Burford for more information or raffle tickets at 410-442-1728.

Lets make this a successful and fun filled fund raiser. A lot of your holiday shopping could be done if you are a stocking winner.

Future fund raising possibilities:

Basket Bingo

Golf Tournament

Suggestions and volunteers always welcome - looking forward to hearing from you.

# President's Corner

## President's Message from Mike Hasty

### Change!!

Change is one of the constants that we, as individuals, can all count on. For the Thunder Soccer Club it is no different than for everyone else. Yet while some people cringe at the thought, our Board recognizes how change is necessary to meet the current needs of the Club, and we have made some major shifts in how we will manage the Thunder organization, as well as the soccer and player development within.

Over the past several years we have used the services of Jeff Gross as Director of Coaching to help oversee the direction and administration of the entire soccer program. His role included looking out for, and guiding activities related to both the players and coaches.

This approach to Club management worked fairly successfully when we had 12 – 15 teams, but as our younger teams have advanced in age and new teams have been added in their place, it became clear that it was time to adjust. We have now grown to over 22 teams and have recognized that the needs of the players vary depending on their age, and that it is difficult for a single individual to handle it all.

As a result, we now have contracts with two respected soccer individuals, each of which has been tasked with the responsibility for focusing on a specific group within the club.

**Cliff Walcott**, as the Youth Advisor will now focus his efforts on the U9 through U11 teams. Cliff's responsibilities also include working a joint program with the Recreation Program here in Western Howard County at the U9 age group.

**Tony Corbett**, now has responsibility for the U12's through U18's and higher. While each of these individuals has certain objectives and duties to perform specific to their age groups, both also work together to seamlessly move the teams through the development process.

In addition, we have created a position within the Board for the overall management of the entire program. Both Cliff and Tony report directly to this individual and are responsible for providing their plans and status on a monthly basis. The position title is: Coaching Liaison and is currently held by **Ken Boras**. While these changes are significant we will continue to evaluate their effectiveness and will continue to look for other ways to improve.

Jeff Gross has moved on to another position with the CASL club in North Carolina. We wish him well.

## Club Referees

Some of our members have already taken advantage of the club sponsored referee course and we applaud you. The sport of soccer needs referees and unless we step up, the need will only grow worse.

We are now working through the referees association to sponsor a course each year, or to co-sponsor one with the Western Howard County Recreation Program. Typically this course is offered during the summer months, but recently the Club has

had multiple requests for referee training and we are trying to arrange a special session.

We need approximately 15 participants to schedule a course. If you are interested please let Mike Hasty know your desire and if we can get 15 students we will schedule a special class before summer.

Again, a special thanks to the individuals that participated in our first class this past summer.

# College Night 2001

By Tony Corbett

About two months ago, I was approached about putting together a College Night. No problem, I thought, I'll call up some contacts and put together an informed panel and we'll see how it goes. I scripted a promotional flyer raising some pertinent questions and issues, and at a Board meeting we sorted out who would do what and how we would get the word out.

Now that's all fine and dandy in theory, but I was sweating... I had some serious reservations about anyone actually showing up!! Well, that night was Monday, November 12th, 2001, and what a success it was! Parents and players kept rolling in, and we even had to re-arrange the tables to accommodate everyone. The overall attendance was guesstimated at well over 100 people which more than doubled our expectations!!

On the panel, we had:

**Mark Mettrick**, Loyola College (Division 1 Men's Head Coach)

**Rob Ryerson**, Mount St. Mary's College (Division 1 Men's Head Coach)

**Leslie Wray**, Towson University (Division 1 Women's Head Coach)

**Leo Weil**, Johns Hopkins University (Division 3 Women's Head Coach)

**Kate Seagroves**, Howard Community College (Junior College)

**Rich Edgar**, St. Mary's College, Director of Admissions

To open the meeting, each member of the panel took a turn to introducing themselves and went into detail about their individual perspective and their program. After that, we opened up the forum into a Q&A session and the questions came thick and fast. Each panel member gave great insight into everything from 'How to make the initial contact', to 'How to narrow down the college selections', and eventually to scholarships and clearinghouses.

All told, the meeting lasted a little over 2 hours and afterwards, most of the attendees chose to mingle with the coaches as they took advantage of the chance to ask additional



questions. Judging by the amount of handshakes and smiling faces, it's fair to say that everyone had a great time and gained some very useful knowledge about the whole process.

In the spring, Thunder Soccer Club will be sponsoring a similar event for the 8th graders that are preparing to enter High School. – **'PLAYING WITH THE BIG KIDS!!'** This will be an ideal way for our players to find out what is in store for them, what is expected of them, and what they can do to best prepare themselves. Our panel will consist of High School coaches and players.

Thank you very much to everyone for helping to make the event such a well-attended success, and if anyone has any additional comments or questions, please contact me at [tclondon@home.com](mailto:tclondon@home.com).

## Parents, Players, Coaches and Managers

### **SPRING CLUB DUES** **AND LATE FEE**

Congratulations on the completion of a great Fall Season. Great strides are being made in our competitiveness as a Club.

As we look forward to the Spring, it is important to know that the leagues we participate in expect their league fees to be paid by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Other Club payments related to field usage and maintenance are also due.

The Thunder Board is requiring that ALL teams participating in Spring leagues pay their Club dues no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> to provide the funds needed to do this. **Teams failing to pay by January 15<sup>th</sup> will be assessed a Board approved late fee of 10% and may not be registered for their league.**

We appreciate your cooperation in making this happen

Mail to: TSC c/o Dave Walter, Treasurer  
11698 Foxspur Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
(H) 410.730-0939  
(W) 410.730-7488

# Introducing- Cliff Walcott

## *Youth Advisor, Thunder Soccer Club*

You can call me Cliff..... you can call me Cliffie.... you can call me Coach Mr Cliff..... but don't you ever call me Clifford, the Big Red Dog. If you do, I'll bite your %\*^#@ every day and twice on Sunday.

My coaching experience is dominated by working with the girls. Whenever I get a chance to train boys, it's such a hormonal relief, but the girls ... gawd! I love 'em. They're like puppies. They give you that love right back. I have four daughters of my own, but I have umpteen daughters, really. I try to balance a fun environment with my dead seriousness of playing the game right. I emphasize that real fun is getting better at playing soccer.

You tell me: the first time you executed a 360 degree spin move and left a defender in a daze, didn't that feel good? Girls execute this move like ballet dancers. I want the players I train to master the soccer ball so that the whole game may be theirs. In my sessions I seize every opportunity to connect the technical aspect of the game with the tactical. When I get the rare chance to play I relate the play of the game to coaching situations, in my mind, certainly not in my play.


I had the special opportunity to play with some of WHC's finest Rec. coaches. People like Randy (who always had German milk available after the game, even on those frigid November nights), Kurt, who struck a bending corner kick to the far post in one game as my forehead watched in silence ... unmoving ... such a beautiful ball deserved to remain untouched (Goal kick!); the Pacious brothers, who expected me to be a 6-foot Jamaican. Nah mon! I man a GT; Jim Selfridge and Ken Cobleigh took the game too seriously. They were playing to win. The rest of us were working up a thirst for the German milk.

TSC offered me the opportunity to serve our developing players and I couldn't pass it up. Word is that their decision to accept my

proposal was a "no brainer", since they knew I was familiar with the Rec guys and am head, feet and shoulders inside the door with the Mayor of Glenwood, muh main man. I've coached his daughters, and we both like music where people sing, not talk, play an acoustic instrument and not a magic machine.

WHC Juniors (a cooperative program between WHC and TSC for the little players, U9 and below) is off to a great start. I've exposed them to ex-professionals such as Clint Peay and Rob Ryerson. I intend to keep this program growing through the winter. Tony Corbett and I are in the process of securing indoor facilities for play and training.

I am in touch with Jim Oman, who is one of the chief promulgators of the exciting game of Futsal. I am on a campaign to disassociate our players from the "wall game". If America is ever going to produce a dangerous striker like Michael Owens, a dangerous midfielder like Rivaldo, a dangerous defender like Davids (Dahveeds), we must do the same things we do in training sessions: keep our players stuck to activities that are most like the real game. Futsal will be at a location near you this winter.

**SHOTS ON THE NET** 

[www.thundersoccerclub.org](http://www.thundersoccerclub.org)

<http://www.msya.org/>

<http://users.erols.com/wsyacy/lightning.html>

<http://brucebrownlee.com/>

<http://users.erols.com/wsyacy/soccer.html>

<http://www.thepitch.org/>

<http://www.fifa.com/index.html>

<http://www.collegesoccer.com/>

( See the On-line version at [WWW.thundersoccerclub.org](http://WWW.thundersoccerclub.org) for "HOT" links)

## **So why does a soccer club have to end at U-21? What's the deal here? When is a soccer club not a soccer club? So many questions!**

By Tony Corbett

In England, when I was growing up, I played soccer and cricket for my local clubs. As you might expect, there were many clubs that represented their communities. We had the colts and the men's teams.... sorry ladies, this was a long time ago, and I didn't know enough to stand up for your rights!

Anyway, the colts did their age group thing very similar to our youth soccer clubs, and the adults had 3-5 teams of their own! The 1st XI being the most competitive team and the lowest XI being the 'duffers' who looked like they had pillows up their shirts, and told their teammates, perhaps in colorful terms, a thing or two about life!

These men's teams were very important. It was they that were the heartbeat of the club; they kept the fabric of the club together that gave the club its real identity and sense of community. After all, it is adults that interact, bond, make decisions, acquire knowledge, and pass on experience etc., and just as importantly, it is adults that supply the next crop of players!

Amazingly, all the local soccer 'clubs' in this area are set up so that they train the child from 5 years old through 21 and then, just like 'Nsync, they say, "Bye, Bye, Bye!" This doesn't make any sense to me at all.... to know and to practically raise a kid for 16 years, to pass on and invest all that knowledge and effort, only to let it all evaporate and not offer a place to play afterwards.

How can that be? The very reason we encourage our children play this great game, perhaps the best game in the world, is because it is fun... a good social outlet... a healthy outlet... something that hopefully becomes a lifelong passion... So what happens at 21? You're too old? The game is no longer fun? You are disposable and of no value?

Well I disagree! A club should become somewhere that you want to belong to and to have pride in and thus, it should have an obligation to provide something for the 'after-life'!

This is what I am proposing....

I believe OUR club should be, and will be the FIRST IN THE AREA to field a Thunder Men's XI and a Thunder Ladies XI. Both of these teams will have a paid coach, with the intent that these teams will enter the top leagues in the area.... and maybe even enter the National Open Cup! Initially of course, these teams may consist of some of us aforementioned 'duffers', but gradually the team should take shape and become a place for the serious players.

Once that gets going, I propose to form a 2nd XI, which will be pretty much the home of the former 1st XI!! And why not a 3rd XI?? It is my hope that the 1st XI will ultimately consist of Thunder alumni, coaches, parents (there's a couple of good ones out there!), some 'outsiders'.... AND, most importantly, I want it to be an opportunity to draft up some of the top players that play for the older youth teams – maybe the 15's and older. This will give valuable playing experience against older, stronger, wiser players, and the youths will be given the chance to accelerate their learning curve.

These adult teams could also scrimmage the youth teams in an effort to further introduce everyone with more club members. All of this of course, deepens the bond and increases our pride in the club and hence, its family and community image. These adult players would then become club activists and all of our club members would feel part of something bigger than just their team.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved in these adult teams, please contact me at [tclondon@home.com](mailto:tclondon@home.com) - I would say call me at home, but I've got a couple of pesky kids, and you know how messages can go missing! I am looking for players, coaches and team managers. These people should be excited, energetic and up for the challenge – Bored and miserable need not apply!

Good luck, and thanks for being a supporter and a club member.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

***If you don't help, you can't complain.....DO IT FOR THE KIDS !!!!***

**NCSL REPRESENTATIVE** – Looking for a person to be able attend NCSL meetings six times a year. Coordinate Fall and Spring NCSL applications for boys U9 – U19. Contact David Gould at [DGMP@CS.COM](mailto:DGMP@CS.COM) OR (410) 313-8858.

**NEWSLETTER STAFF** – Intermittent efforts to collect articles and information on teams from Coaches, Parents, and Players to help the Club communicate. NO SKILLS NEEDED! Will assign work commensurate with abilities and train on the job. Contact Jim Havey at [havey@erols.com](mailto:havey@erols.com) OR (410) 549-6902.

**Program Help** – Coaches, Players and Parents needed to help out with our Futsal, Thunder Threes and Micro Soccer programs. These programs are held to continue player development and to share the benefits of the Thunder Club with the community. Coaches, Players and Parents we need your help make them a huge success. Contact Tony Corbett at [tclondon@home.com](mailto:tclondon@home.com), or at (410) 740-5597, or Cliff Walcott.

## NCSL REPORT

David Gould - Club Rep.

First, **Congratulations** to the U17 Boys White, U13 Boys and U 11 Boys, all of which should be promoted to higher Divisions based on their Fall finishes. GREAT JOB GUYS!!!!

Next, I want to thank the players, coaches and parents as of this date the club has done a great job in self-control area and have not made the hit list for rules and discipline committee. Over the past few years we have been one of the best clubs in the NCSL in this area and because of the rule changes this could help a team. More on the rule changes below.

NCSL teams dates to remember:

January 5 - Spring 2002 entries mailed to NCSL rep

January 15 - Spring club fees due to TSC from each NCSL team

January 24 - Spring 2002 entries and fees due from NCSL club rep

February 15 - Scheduling request forms due; fields due

March 27 - NCSL BOD meeting; spring 2002 materials distributed

April 6 - NCSL season begins!

And lastly!!

There is a change in the tie breakers procedures used to determine division standings to include overall team conduct (disciplinary points) and goals allowed as higher measurements than goal differential.

Section IV B paragraph 2 tie breakers rules are revised as follows:

In the case of points, ties at the end of the regularly scheduled season, final division standings for any teams involved will be determined on the basis of the following tie breaker sequence:

- a. Head to head results between the two teams or among the example: A beats B; B tied C; C beat A. Wins – losses – ties = points. 3 points for a win, 0 points for a loss and 1 point for a tie. A is 1-1-0 = 3 points. B is 0-1-1=1 point. C is 1-0-1=4 points. C is the winner with four tiebreaker points.
- b. Most wins during the season.
- c. Fewest goals allowed during the season.
- d. Fewest disciplinary points awarded during the season.
- e. Greatest differential between goals for and goals against.
- f. Coin toss by NCSL president.

## Any aspiring journalists out there?

In an attempt to bring club members and teams closer together, an idea came to me to tap into some of the brightest, freshest and least corrupted minds within us!!... our elder players. I am interested in talking to any U-15 and older players about developing their journalistic skills. I am convinced that some of you out there will be heading that way when you get into college.

So why not earn some experience writing for us? It will look great on your college applications, and it might even contribute towards those community service hours that you need to graduate high school! You will work closely with a couple of the club's best kept secrets: Scott Maurer, who is the club webmaster, and Karen Napolitano (yes, Julie's mum!), who is a professional writer and editor. Between the two of them, you will learn valuable skills such as web design and the do's and don'ts (Karen, did I spell that right?) on content development, editing, grammar and interview techniques etc.

I have MANY ideas for article subject matter, but I'm not going to give them away here(!), and of course you, the journalist, will be welcome to come up with your own suggestions. With the power of Microsoft Word, e-mails and digital cameras, most of your efforts could be accomplished on weekends and from home.

Anyone that is interested should contact me at [tclondon@home.com](mailto:tclondon@home.com), or at (410) 740-5597.

### **Thunder Soccer Club proudly announces Thunder Three's**

'Thunder Three's' is a 3v3 competition between 4 teams. It is set up so that each team will play 3 round robin games lasting 25 minutes each. It is designed to be a FUN opportunity to 'break the boredom' and allow players and teams a chance to stretch their legs, and play indoor soccer during the winter months. This is how a Saturday schedule will work:

9:00 am	Team 1 vs Team 2
9:30 am	Team 3 vs Team 4
10:00 am	Team 1 vs Team 3
10:30 am	Team 2 vs Team 4
11:00 am	Team 1 vs Team 4
11:30 am	Team 2 vs Team 3

At 12:00 pm, the next 4-team session will start for a different age group, and at 3:00 pm the last session will start. The same format will be used for Monday's and Thursday's, except that games will start at 6:00 pm.



#### **RULES:**

1. Absolutely no game protests will be entertained!!
2. Signed medical release forms can be presented prior to your team's first game. No form, no play!
3. A team can have up to five players – No roster needs to be submitted.
4. Each game will have 12-minute halves with a 1-minute half-time. The clock will not stop for any reason and there are no timeouts.
5. Substitutions can be made on the fly.
6. A referee will be provided.
7. Any questions may be referred to Tony Corbett. See below for contact information.
8. Applications should be received no later than three weeks prior to the date of the session being applied for.

#### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

In case of inclement weather, the school may close the facility and your registration fee will be refunded in part if the games cannot be rescheduled.

Please make \$100 registration fee checks payable to: Thunder Soccer Club – Thunder Three's.

Thunder Board and Administration

Executive Board

President – Mike Hasty

Vice-President – Jim Gormley

Vice-President – Dan Ennis

Treasurer – Dave Walter

Secretary – Dave Gould

At-Large Board Members:

Ken Boras – Coach Liaison

Ralph Kompere – Sponsorship

Cliff Walcott – Youth Advisor

Jim Havey - Newsletter

Patti Burford - Parent Rep

Tom Kuba - Fields

Administration

Coaching Advisor – Tony Corbett

ThunderWear Coordinator – Cheryl Gould

NCSL Representative – Dave Gould

WAGS Representative – Robert Holcomb

Registrar Assistance – Debbi Hasty

**Club Voice Mail: 410.207.2213**

*(For contact information, coaches and other news, See the Web Site)*

[www.thundersoccerclub.org](http://www.thundersoccerclub.org)

Glenwood Park  
Reminder!!

**No Parking is allowed  
on the grass along Route 97!!  
or for that matter any grass at the park.**

**IT IS NOT PERMITTED  
IT IS NOTSAFE!!**

**If it is allowed we will lose our permit to  
use these fields!**

Coaches and Managers must communicate this to the opposing teams when they contact them to confirm game times and directions. **You must also** enforce this on game days.

We have been advised that *if we do not comply*, our **permits** to play at these fields **WILL BE REVOKED.**

Advise the visiting teams of the availability of parking at the Middle School and require parking at the School for both TSC families and visitors when games are on the field closest to the School. *We cannot afford to lose these fields.*

***It's no fun not having home games!!***

Mission

The Thunder Soccer Club will by, putting players first, establish and maintain a youth soccer environment that provides to young people the opportunity for growth through competition and the continuous education and improvement of players and coaches.

– **THUNDERWEAR** –

Check out the web: [www.thundersoccerclub.org](http://www.thundersoccerclub.org)

New TSC team uniforms Copa jerseys, shorts and training suits.

Have a supply of gray Thunder sweatshirts with "Thunder Pride" on back.

Show your support with a Thunder Soccer Window Decal only \$2.00.

*To place Team or individual orders contact Cheryl Gould*

E-mail [CAGX4@cs.com](mailto:CAGX4@cs.com) or (410) 313-8858.