

The Tulpehocken Soccer Club (TSC) was formed in 1987 by combining two former soccer clubs, Bernville Area Recreation Association (BARA) and Northwestern Berks Soccer Club (NWBSC). The intention of the original board members was to create a unified soccer club instead of having the players compete against each other. By allowing the children to play together at a younger age, it allowed the players to develop as a team and strengthened a school district that was already rich in soccer history.

One of the first goals of TSC was to acquire land for soccer fields that was centrally located within Tulpehocken School District. Originally, there were plans to put soccer fields near the Tulpehocken High School, but through much time and effort these plans never received approval. There were several other areas that were reviewed, but they did not fit the Soccer Club's criteria.

In 1990, the TSC tried to acquire land in Jefferson Township from the Army Corp of Engineers, but at that time they were not ready to sell the property. By 1994, the Army Corp of Engineers had decided to convey this land to Jefferson Township with the expectation this land would be used as a public recreation area. The township decided it would develop this property into soccer and baseball fields, so they contacted TSC and the BARA Baseball Club to see if they were interested in taking part in the project. It was determined at that time that an organization should be formed with representatives from the clubs. The Tulpehocken Youth Organization was established in 1995 to oversee the development of this new area called Jefferson Park.

Jefferson Park was constructed in three phases with each phase being a separate tier. Through a lot of planning, donations, and hard work, the Operating Engineers Local 542 began construction on the first phase in 1995, which consisted of the baseball fields. Phase 2 construction of the second tier began in 1997 and was completed in 1998. The final phase began in 1998 and concluded in 1999 with the lower tier of soccer fields being created.

A major accomplishment in the sport of soccer was the development of the PIAA Girls Soccer Program in 1988. Once PIAA approved it as an official sport, the soccer club rallied up enough support to have it approved as a sport at the Tulpehocken School District in the spring of 1990. Up until this time, most girls who played soccer did not have the opportunity to continue playing beyond Junior High School.

When the TSC was formed in 1987, there were a total of 244 children playing soccer. Now, over 400 children are enrolled in the club. It has taken a lot of time and dedication from numerous board members and volunteers throughout the years to get the Tulpehocken Soccer Club where it is at today. Below is a list of the original Board Members who had a vision for the Tulpehocken Soccer Club and took the initiative to make their dreams become a reality.

#### Officers

Gene Zeller	President
Gloria Bean	Vice President
*L. Kevin Zellers	Director/Vice President
Linda Schueller	Secretary
Sandy Delewski	Treasurer

#### Directors

Glenn Balthaser
Ken Liskey
Burnell Rossini
Ken Gehris
Tim Bordner

*\*Although Gloria Bean started as Vice President, she was superseded by L. Kevin Zellers after her two month tenure.*

*Author – Kyle Zellers March 2011*