

420 W. STREET ROAD, KENNETT SQUARE, PA. 19348

(215) 444-5119 or 444-9939

Dear Members:

As the first president of the Chester County Skating Club I served from 1970 through 1975. Now I find myself back in this position, and I look forward to helping the Club and the members have many more successful and enjoyable years.

At this week's Board meeting there was considerable discussion regarding what may be a lack of understanding among some sections of the membership as to just what CCSC is. The Club will begin its fourteenth year in November, and the Board has never wavered in its efforts to keep the Club unique in the area, and it has succeeded admirably.

The CCSC is primarily a family organization. We do not presume to be as competitive as the larger clubs or all-star teams at all times. We do not recruit, and we do not travel widely seeking ever-stronger competition. We will have our big years with certain teams, and we will have down years with others just as schools do. To be realistic, moreover, it is reasonable to say that we do not have the numbers to draw from or the ice time for training for our boys to become professional or strong Division I college hockey players. Even the good Division II player will be rare, and we have thirteen years of experience as a basis for these statements. The successes we have should be rewarding in themselves.

Speaking personally, I see our programs as an extension of the youngsters' education. There follows a statement which I wrote for a hockey publication in Finland, and it may give you a clear idea of this view:

In the schools of the United States and many in England, sports are an integral part of the school program. Participation in sports is considered part of a boy's or girl's physical, social, and emotional education. Under this philosophy, the sports clubs of Europe should also be considered educational for the young people involved.

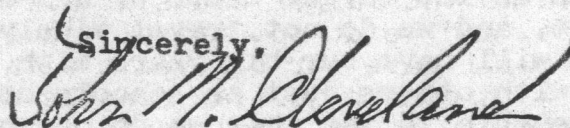
For these young people it is in hockey or some other sport where they develop their strength, coordination, confidence, competitive spirit, and sense of fair play; it is here that they learn how to take directions, how to work with others, how to challenge themselves, and how to control their emotions. In this setting the child acquires a self-image, and everything must be done to see that it is a good one.

The atmosphere must be structured but warm and positive, and at no time should the boy or girl and his success be used for the glorification of his coach or parents; nor should his shortcomings and failures be the object of anger or scorn. Without fun and enjoyment of his hours in hockey there will be little education unless it is miseducation, which is surely to be avoided. Needless to say, from the coaching process the child is to learn the basic skills of the game plus concepts of strategy in team play suitable for the age.

The TEAM concept as it pertains to playing time in games is one which receives increasing emphasis with the advancing age of the child. We see the Pee Wee level as the pivotal point where WE begins to have more importance than ME. This approach will become very constructive for the youngsters at the Bantam level where the natural self-centeredness of early adolescence comes to the fore. By the time boys and girls are in high school, what is best for the team takes precedence.

As the new skating season rapidly approaches, excitement is sure to be growing among the membership. It is my hope that all will feel at ease in seeking the resolution of concerns through contact with our manager, Dick Wilson, and members of the Board. Let us hope, however, that problems are few and far between.

Sincerely,



John M. Cleveland
President, CCSC

JMC/ec

October 17, 1983