

History of the Twin State Soccer Cup

What began as a dream of a few Vermont soccer coaches in 1973 was finally realized in 1975 with the playing of the first Lions Twin-State Soccer Cup Match. Nearly 2000 spectators came to Middlebury to see a game that had come about as a result of Vermont and New Hampshire coaches working together. The coaches had initially set the first game for July of 1974, but NCAA rules would not allow the game to be held on a college campus. After this setback the coaches decided they would need two things - an outside sponsor, and a change in the NCAA bylaws. Early in 1975, both were accomplished. The NCAA did change their rules and the Lions of New Hampshire and Vermont agreed to sponsor the game.

Recognizing that girls' soccer was the fastest growing sport in New England, a girls' match was added in 1983. Since the first game in 1975, the site of the game has rotated between locations in New Hampshire and Vermont.

The dream of a few coaches and Lions of the two states is today a reality. Over 3,600 graduating high school soccer players have been honored to play in the matches and over \$580,000 have been raised for Lions charitable works in Vermont and New Hampshire.

The Lions Twin-State Soccer Association, Inc.

The Lions Twin-State Soccer Association, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation under the control of the Lions of New Hampshire and Vermont. The board of directors of the association is made up of 18 Lions from each state serving three year terms. These directors in turn elect their officers. The directors all donate their time, travel, and expenses to attend association meetings, travel to local clubs in their state to promote the matches, and serve on association committees to administer the games.

The Board of Directors meets every other month, and the executive board meets on alternate months. All Lions are welcome to attend the Board of Directors meetings, which are usually held in White River Junction, Vermont.

The Role of the Lions

The Lions of both states pull together each year to make the matches a financial success for the projects in their states. The funds are raised in two ways. The first is through the sales of tickets to individual Lions and to the public. Each Lion in the two states is mailed two tickets and asked to purchase or sell them. Lions also make an effort to attend the games, bringing friends, family, youth from the community, and fellow Lions.

The second way funds are raised, accounting for a majority of the revenue for the games, is the sale of advertising space in the program book. The sale of ads requires the dedication and commitment of each Lion in order to be successful. The directors will inform the local Lions regarding which ads have yet to be renewed, so the advertiser can be contacted. Just as important as renewal ads is the sale of new ads. This is how this program will grow to be an even larger success.

For more information about the Lions Twin-State Soccer Cup Matches and how YOU can become involved, contact the Twin-State Soccer Cup office at Rt. 4, Box 133, Danbury, NH, 03230, or call (603) 768-3617 and speak to Executive Director Lion Forrest Powers. If you are a New Hampshire or Vermont Lion and would like to become a part of the Board of Directors, contact your District Governor, or a current Soccer Director.