

## LCU/KMU Potential Merged Clubs

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **Why is this being proposed?**

Lake Country United and Kettle Moraine United have run very successful programs for many years, but it has become clear that together they can provide a better soccer experience for children in their geographic areas than they can separately. After many discussions between the leadership of the two organizations it has become apparent that there may be a good cultural fit between the 2 organizations. Player development is the focus in both organizations, and there is also a strong desire to support the “good of the game” of soccer at all levels. For this reason we are looking at the potential merger of the two clubs.

Several areas of opportunity present themselves by combining the 2 organizations into one.

1. High School Age Players – Both clubs have a desire to create a strong, healthy playing environment for High School age players. This has been difficult to do due to the available player pool. Whether these players are targeting performance with their high school teams or are seeking better competition and exposure leading to collegiate opportunities, a larger player pool is needed in these age groups.
2. Coaching Education – Both clubs have a belief in continuing to educate coaches on the sport of soccer so that their volunteer-based recreational programs can be vibrant, and their select programs can have coaches whose education in the game keeps up with their players’ abilities as they progress from U5 through U18. The clubs have had success recently by working together on hosting G/Y1 courses and can continue to build on that success with future coaching education courses.
3. Referee Education/Development – The pooling of the resources of both existing clubs can help to produce a model for referee education and development, in conjunction with the State Referee association that will be good for the soccer teams in this area and good for the game of soccer in general.
4. Facilities – Space for soccer activities is at a premium and will continue to be that way in the future. Soccer at its more competitive levels has become a year-round activity for players and coaches. Kettle Moraine United brings excellent outdoor facilities to this merger that will lift the outdoor portion of the combined organization’s program to levels that match the levels our teams compete at. The organization will also be focused on adding indoor facilities to increase the training and competitive futsal opportunities available to our players.
5. The combination of these 2 organizations will have a positive impact on players, families, soccer and the community. There is also an economic impact opportunity as well for this geography as

the potential for large, highly attended soccer events becomes a reality to the area. Tournaments, regional leagues, Olympic Development training, state championships, and regional championships all become legitimate possibilities with this unification, and the increased resources that it will eventually be able to bring to bear on soccer.

6. Currently both clubs compete for some of the same players and as a result hinder the development and progress of their teams. We believe that having a single unified club will help facilitate the growth of all players in the area while bettering the game of soccer in Wisconsin and the economic climate in the greater Lake Country area.

The change will not affect the Spring 2012 season. The changes will be in effect for the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 season. This will allow both organizations to smoothly transition all of the volunteers and activities into one entity in time for the fall season. This will also assist in the uniform development of all players within the area.

#### **Has the merger been completed?**

No, as of January 1, 2012 both clubs are meeting to explore this as an option. The bylaws of KM United will require a specific vote of the membership in order to approve a merger. At this time the KM United Board has approved continuing discussions on the merger as the goals and objectives of both clubs are very similar. The LCU board also sees the potential merger as a positive move for soccer in the area. However, a general membership vote is not required by the LCU bylaws, the LCU Board may make the decision on behalf of its members.

#### **How will fees for the recreational and select programs be affected?**

Both LCU and KMU have similar fee structures for their recreational and select programs. Fees would only increase as needed. However, in the first year of the merged clubs minor or no fee increase is anticipated to keep things stable. These fee increases, if any would be due to any corresponding increase in costs that have occurred for league fees or field usage. The new club will also be adopting the very successful KM United's Academy Elite program model, which allows families to make choices earlier in regards to the development path for their players in the sport of soccer.

#### **Will the team that my child played on last season (Fall 2011/Spring 2012) stay together and keep the same coach for the 2012/2013 season?**

Since we are uniting two clubs and their related age groups, we will emerge as one club with larger age groups. As such age and type of play will be the driver as to when the club moves from a geographical orientation into a completely merged environment.

## **Recreational**

The recreational soccer program will remain geographical in nature from U5 – U14. This will keep travel time minimized and the community aspects of recreational sports intact. Since the older ages of rec often have numbers issues the combined strength of the new club could be leveraged to help ensure players the opportunity to play regardless of geography if that fits a family need. As an example, LCU operates a single recreational geographic area. KMU operates with an east and west area. If the merger would be approved it is envisioned that the younger recreational age groups would operate in a West, East and North area so that children will be able to continue to practice in their community geographic area. Both Clubs currently are part of Waukesha Area Recreational Soccer (WARS) and would continue to do so.

## **Academy Elite / U11 Select**

As mentioned above the merged club will adopt the KM United Academy Elite program at U8, U9, and U10 as an additional option for families in those age groups that want a more serious approach to developing soccer skills. This approach will involve licensed-professional coaching 2 nights per week and a licensed coach for league play which will consist of games outside of the club and some tournament exposure. This program will also remain geographic in nature.

Our U11 Select teams will also continue to be structured in a geographical nature. With U11 being the first year of Select it is a learning year for families as well in regards to the commitment level in both time and costs to soccer. Teams still play primarily in southeast Wisconsin during this year and player development will remain the key focus of the program.

## **U12 – U18 Select**

At U-12 and up the teams will merge to create the strongest teams possible, regardless of the geographic make-up of rosters. State League play becomes possible at this age and therefore it is important that the club provide for the most competitive select opportunity for players.

Teams with a Fall/Spring season will likely spend one season training in the North location and one season in the South location. Teams with only a spring or fall season will train and play at one site or another, dependent upon field availability and other factors.

Select coaches from both clubs have always been selected by their Directors of Coaching, and will undergo the same process with the new club; therefore it is impossible to say at this time with any certainty that they will remain with a particular team/age group.

It is very likely, however, that at every select age group, U-12 and up, the new club will have a team at each age group (boys and girls) that will be able to compete at the highest level in the state and probably at a regional level at U14 and higher while also retaining a second or third team in many cases. This will allow for playing and development opportunities that currently don't exist as select players will have greater opportunities to play at the appropriate skill level.

It is also very likely that the second team at many age groups will be a state-league team as well, and that players will be more appropriately placed on teams so that the disparity in talent isn't so great that it hinders weaker players opportunities to see the field.

The new club will be committed to forming as many Select teams at an age/gender group as is appropriate for numbers and playing abilities, just as its predecessors (LCU and KMU) did previously. The intent of this unification is NOT to create a club only interested in high level teams, but a club committed to providing great soccer opportunities and development to all who want to play the game.

### **Where will my child's games or practices be played?**

We will continue to utilize all fields previously held by both clubs and attempt to schedule home games where it makes the most sense utilizing fields in Ottawa, Wales and Merton. Practice fields may vary, but generally KMU has been able to retain several dedicated practice sites in several communities as has LCU. By merging the clubs some of these facilities will allow for more centralized practices with less travel to practice sites.

### **My child played on a select team at KM United/LCU. Where should he/she tryout for the 2012-2013 seasons?**

There will be one tryout for merged select teams at U12 and above while there may be geographic based tryouts for U11. Times and locations for all tryouts will be announced by the merged club.

### **What will happen with my son/daughter's select team if they are currently in the state league/regional league such as Premier or First Division? Will they keep their spot?**

Specific discussions have been held with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association on this topic. The combining of the clubs is viewed in a very positive manner and we have been assured that all State level spots of former KM United and LCU select teams will flow to the merged club. Players of the former KM United and LCU teams are encouraged to try out for the related teams.

### **What is the composition of the new merged board?**

During the creation of merged club, both LCU and KM United believed that it was imperative for the Board of the new organization to be equally represented by former members of both organizations. The Board therefore would consist of 4 members appointed by KM United, approved by LCU; 4 members

appointed by LCU, approved by KM United, and one member jointly appointed by KM United and LCU, who will act as a tie-breaker in the event of a deadlock.

**Will merged club have new name, colors and/or a new logo? Who makes this decision?**

Yes. However, at this time a name, color and logo decision has not been made. We will have a new color scheme and logo that best represents the emergence of a new club with a very bright future in the state of Wisconsin.

**KM United utilizes a Director of Coaching and LCU has two D.O.C.'s to develop the skills of their players, curriculum for their coaches, and develop and oversee their operations. Will Lakes United FC continue with this?**

As the new club is expected to double in size from the previous clubs (KM United, LCU), it is expected that the new club would need the same amount of staff to facilitate and accommodate the larger player pool. All three D.O.C.'s have been very successful and well received at their respective clubs, and each brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and new ideas to the formation of the new club. Specific duties of the new D.O.C.'s are still being worked on, but it is expected that the oversight of the Academy Elite program as well as college prep will be two key areas of focus for the staff. The merged club will be committed to the continued growth and development of all of the players, recreational and select.

**KM United and LCU both made extensive use of volunteers and committees to run their organizations. What will happen to these positions?**

The merged club will need everyone's help as in the past. While new committees may be formed, we expect familiar faces to fill the positions. One of the most valuable assets of both clubs is the extensive involvement of the volunteers; we will need everyone's help to make this successful.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

The key contact at Lake Country United for more information is Dave Robinson, who is the current President of our volunteer Board of Directors. [President@lcsoccer.org](mailto:President@lcsoccer.org) is the best way to reach him. The primary contact for KM United is Ken Ward, who is the corresponding President for KM United. The best way to reach Ken is [president@kmunited.org](mailto:president@kmunited.org).