



LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

2008 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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2008 - 2009 LMSC OFFICERS

Biff Sturla, President
Marty Rubenstein, Vice President
Nancy Worby, Vice President
Jay Dubow, Director
Nikki Epps
Dan Sutton
Casey Ichniowski
Justin Ceccarelli
Grant Myers

SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

LMSC will run their Spring Intramural Program for boys and girls who were **born between 1998 and 2003**. The program will **start on April 13th** and run every **Sunday** through June 15th, except for Memorial Day Weekend.

Players do NOT need to have prior soccer experience to play in the Spring Intramural Program. There are ten different age groups to choose from in the Spring Program, based on age and gender.

Unlike the Fall Intramural Program, the Spring Intramural Program does not have separate days scheduled for practices. Players will only practice and have games on Sunday afternoons.

All activities are scheduled inside of Lower Merion Township. More information on the Spring Intramural Program can be found on page five of this newsletter.

2008 - 2009 TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

Tryouts for our 2008 - 2009 Travel Team Program will be held in late April and May. Teams will be formed in age groups from Under 9 (birth dates August 1999 through July 31, 2000) up through Under 15 (birth dates August 1, 1993 through July 31, 1994).

LMSC will field as many as four travel teams in each age group, depending on the number of players trying out and the number of qualified coaches available.

More information on our Travel Team Tryouts is available on page two.

Tryouts for the LMSC Under 8 Developmental Travel Team Academy will be held in late May and early June. Information on this program can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

RAT PACK WIN EPYSA INDOOR STATE CUPS

Congratulations to the LMSC Rat Pack, our Under 9A boys travel team, who won the EPYSA Indoor State Cup championships in January. The Rat Pack won all of their games en route to the state championship. Earlier this season, the Rat Pack won the Delco Soccer League's top division championship as well as the prestigious Yardley-Makefield Columbus Day Tournament. Congratulations to head coach Grant Myers and his team on an excellent season to date. More information on their season can be found on page four of this newsletter.

LMSC 2008 - 2009 TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT INFORMATION

Each spring, LMSC holds tryouts in the spring for their fall season travel teams. The 2008 - 2009 fall season will feature boys teams and girls teams in age groups from Under 9 up through Under 15. The Under 9 age group will be open to players born between August 1, 1999 and July 31, 2000. Unlike the intramural program, overage players (even players one day too old) are ineligible to play by rule of the United States Youth Soccer Association. Underage players will also not be allowed to tryout.

The number of teams formed in each age group will be dependent on the number of players trying out, as well as the number of qualified coaches that we can identify for that particular age group. There will be a maximum of four teams in each age group.

To be considered for the Travel Team Program, players will be expected to be at all tryout dates for their age group. Each tryout session will last approximately two hours. Players MUST tryout for the age group corresponding to their birth date, as listed in the tryout schedule. Players may **NOT** play "UP" in an older age group.

**THE LMSC TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT SCHEDULE FOR 2008 / 2009 WILL BE POSTED
ON OUR WEB PAGE, www.lmsc.net NO LATER THAN MARCH 1st.**

SHOULD MY CHILD PLAY TRAVEL TEAM SOCCER OR INTRAMURAL SOCCER?

Each year, we have people ask about the difference between playing in the Travel Team Program and the intramural program. They are often confused about which program is more appropriate for their child. Parents of many children ages eight and older are faced with the decision of having their child play in the intramural program (which runs through age 13 in the fall season and age 10 in the spring season) or having their child try out for the Travel Team Program. One of the main factors to consider in making this decision is that the Travel Team Program is geared for players who want to work harder to eventually play at higher levels of play in the future. Players who play for local varsity high school teams almost all played travel team soccer when they were younger. Other factors to consider are that the Travel Team Program offers a more competitive environment and has a more experienced coaching staff. As a result, player development takes place at a much faster rate in the Travel Team Program. It has been found over the years that friendships and team bonding is much stronger, and more long lasting, at the travel team level. Many travel team players become life long friends over the years.

The intramural program is geared more for recreational players who simply want to have fun playing soccer and are not looking to play at higher levels in future years. The primary emphasis of all intramural programs is to ensure that all players have a fun-filled experience in a soccer environment. Standings are not kept and championships are not held, except at the oldest divisions in the Fall Intramural Program (the Cosmos Division for 11-13 year old girls and the Majors Division for 11-13 year old boys).

Families trying to decide which program is more appropriate for their child should remember that almost all of the top athletes ages 8 and up are playing in the Travel Team Program. We have as many as four travel teams in the Under 9 age group so about 50 of the top athletes in each of these age groups are no longer playing in the intramural program. The level of play is not nearly as high in the older intramural age groups.

LMSC does encourage travel team players to play other sports. The Travel Team Program does not want players to limit themselves to playing only one sport during the year. The Travel Team Program does insist that soccer be each child's primary activity during the fall season. Intramural teams practice once a week in the fall and play a game each weekend. Travel teams practice once or twice a week during the fall and play a game each weekend (occasionally two games). Most travel teams also play a limited amount of indoor soccer in the winter. Almost all of our 'A' travel teams will compete in the EPYSA state cups in the spring.

As stated, many of the coaches in the Travel Team Program coach at higher levels and have much more experience coaching soccer. Our Travel Team Program currently has coaches who are coaching at the high school varsity level at numerous schools, including The Episcopal Academy, Harriton, Lower Merion, The Haverford School, Conestoga, Chestnut Hill Academy, Bayard Rustin, and Barrack Hebrew. The Travel Team Program has had a LOT of success. Two former LMSC players are playing in the MLS, our country's top professional league. One of those players played in the 2006 World Cup. Since 1989, LMSC travel teams have won a total of 21 State Championships.

For many other players, staying in the intramural program is best. LMSC recommends that the stronger athletes who have a desire to play at higher levels of play in the future tryout for the Travel Team Program. Hopefully, the parents of all players ages 8 and older will be able to decide which is the more appropriate program for them.

THE LMSC UNDER 8 DEVELOPMENTAL ACADEMY

Each year, LMSC identifies a pool of Under 8 boys players and a pool of Under 8 girls players to train together during the fall and winter. The purpose of this program is to develop our top younger players for the Travel Team Program, which starts the following fall season.

The players train together under the direction of the LMSC Under 8 Coaching Staff, which is comprised of experienced youth soccer coaches and high level soccer players, most of whom played at the college level. The coaching staff does NOT include parents of U-8 players. All coaches in the Under 8 Developmental Academy are non-parent coaches.

TRYOUTS AND PLAYER SELECTION - LMSC will have two or three tryouts for each Under 8 team. Tryouts are held in late May and early June. Players wishing to be a part of the Under 8 program **MUST** be at tryouts. Players should make every effort to be at **ALL** tryouts listed. We will post tryout dates for all age groups on our web page (in the Travel Team Tryout section) in March. LMSC will pick a team of up to 24 boys and a team of up to 24 girls.

To be eligible for the 2008 - 2009 season, players **MUST** be born between August 1, 2000 and July 31, 2001, no exceptions!!!. Per United States Soccer Federation policy, all players making a team will be required to submit a copy of their birth certificate to show they are of the proper age.

While tryouts are held in the spring, the official Under 8 season will not start until the fall, after Labor Day. Players making the Under 8 Academy are eligible to sign up for the LMSC Fall Pre-Season Travel Team Camp if they desire.

FALL SEASON - Each pool of players trains twice a week during the fall (one weeknight practice and one Saturday practice) and plays one game a week (Sunday afternoons). The players also participate in a tournament in mid-November against other Under 8 teams in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

WINTER SEASON - Both Under 8 groups participate in indoor soccer leagues at a local indoor facility and train on occasion in local area school gymnasiums, pending gym availability. Both the indoor leagues and the training are run under the supervision of the LMSC U-8 Coaching staff. While we do not know the exact winter schedule, it is anticipated that the boys teams will have their league games on Mondays (late afternoon and early evening) while the girls teams will have their league games on either Fridays (late afternoon and early evening) or Sunday late afternoons

SPRING SEASON - The U-8s will play a limited amount of spring soccer outdoors, in advance of the Under 9 travel team tryouts which will be held in late April and early May. At that time, players move on to the regular Travel Team Program and will compete regularly against teams from other local area soccer clubs. Teams at the Under 9 and Under 10 travel team level consist of 11 - 13 players. LMSC will field up to four travel teams in each age group. All Under 8 program activities in the spring are informal and do not take precedent over any other sporting activities that the players have. Players are encouraged to play other sports in the spring season.

Please note that this program is geared towards our most talented and committed soccer players. All players in this program must have a high commitment to the game of soccer and to developing their skills. The program runs in the fall and the winter. This is a **much** more extensive program than our intramural programs. Players who would not be able to commit to training and playing in the fall and winter should instead play in the Fall Intramural Program. Again, this program is geared for players who wish to eventually move on to the LMSC Travel Team Program.

THE 2008 / 2009 LMSC UNDER 8 COACHING STAFF - Next year's Under 8 Travel Team Academy will be run by a very experienced staff of LMSC Coaches, with very extensive soccer backgrounds. The 2008 / 2009 staff will include:

- Biff Sturla, President of LMSC, who has coached for 26 years in LMSC and is the head coach for the Harriton High School Boys Varsity. Biff will head up the boys Under 8 Developmental Program for 2008 / 2009.
- Danielle Fagan, Head Coach For Conestoga High School Girls Varsity, 11 year head coach at LMSC
- Pete Gangl, a ten year veteran coach in the LMSC Travel Team Program, will head up the Under 8 girls Developmental Program for 2008 / 2009.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LMSC TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM?

People who want more information about the Under 8 Developmental Academy should e-mail LMSC President Biff Sturla at soccer@lmsc.net . Tryout dates will be posted on our web page in March.

RAT PACK WIN INDOOR STATE CUPS

On January 5th, 2008, ten of the top Eastern-PA Under 9 teams descended upon The Blast Indoor Sports center in York, Pennsylvania to compete in the EPYSA Indoor State Cup Championships. The age group was packed with top name, highly competitive soccer clubs.

The Rat Pack opened up the competition against Fishtown AC from Philadelphia. It didn't take long for the Rat Pack to establish control of the game, and after 24 minutes of play, the game ended 9 - 3 in favor of the Rat Pack. The team's second game had the Rat Pack face Delco League rival West Chester United. As expected, both teams delivered outstanding performances. Throughout most of the 24 minutes of play, the score remained close, with the Rat Pack up only one goal. In the final minutes of play, the Rat Pack managed to assemble some quick one touch passes and finishes, resulting in a pair of late match goals. Final score: Rat Pack 4, West Chester 1.

Confident, yet match-ready, the Rat Pack took the pitch for their third game against Wyoming Valley. The boys again delivered quality soccer and won 10-3. The Rat Pack needed a win in their fourth and final game to ensure a trip to the championship game. The Rat Pack easily defeated HMMS from Harrisburg by the score of 9-1. This put the team into the championship, against local team Panthers United from York, PA.

The championship game remained scoreless for about the first seven minutes. Then, following a quick counter attack, opponent, Panthers United, netted one and got on the scoreboard first. The Rat Pack settled down, and under the direction of coaches Grant Myers and Rasheed Epps, began to string together textbook quality passes and one-touch finishing. The Rat Pack applied very strong pressure up front to the opposition, while Rat Pack defenders shut down the Panthers' offensive counter attacks like a brick wall. At the sound of the final buzzer, the Rat Pack defeated Panthers United, 4-1, becoming the 2008 Under 9 EPYSA Indoor State Cup Champions.

Earlier this season, the Rat Pack won the very prestigious Delco Soccer League's top division, defeating the Baltimore Bays, 5-1 in the championship game. The Rat Pack also won the Yardley-Makefield Columbus Day Weekend Tournament.



LOWER MERION RATPACK

Under 9 Indoor State Champions

Max Auerbach
Matthew Blackman
Gregory Bradbury
Nicholas Coffin
William Cypress
Evan Haas
Mike Kalpokas
Nicolas Kane
Hans Kroschwitz
Will Marks
Matthew Real

Coaches:
Grant Myers
Rasheed Epps
Matt Schneck

2008 LMSC SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

The Lower Merion Soccer Club is now accepting registrations for their Spring Intramural Program, which will be open to boys and girls born between 1998 and 2003. Players born before 1998 are not eligible to play. Previous soccer experience is not needed to play in the Spring Intramural Program. The program will start on Sunday, April 13th and run every Sunday through June 15th, except for Memorial Day Weekend.

Cost for the season: For registrations postmarked on or before March 20th, the cost is \$85. The fee for registrations postmarked after March 20th is \$120 (except for the Atoms, Neutrons, Bantams and Microns Divisions which will remain at \$85). Please note that all divisions have limited openings. Once these divisions are filled, we will not be able to take any more players, even if they sign up before March 20.

The different programs that will be offered this spring are listed below. Players are not required to follow the age division guidelines. Parents may select whichever program they feel their child is best suited for. Players may request to switch to a different division during the season if they feel they are in the wrong division. We will make every attempt to accommodate such requests, but cannot guarantee it. The LMSC Officers reserve the right to move a player to a different division if necessary.

Division	Gender	Birth Year	Ball Size	Times
Atoms	Boys	2003 births	3	12:45 - 2:00
Bantams	Boys	2002 births	3	3:15 - 4:30
Juniors	Boys	2001 births	3	Afternoon
Intermediates	Boys	2000 births	4	Afternoon
Seniors	Boys	1998 and 1999	4	Afternoon
Neutrons	Girls	2003 births	3	2:00 - 3:15
Microns	Girls	2002 births	3	4:30 - 5:45
Quasars	Girls	2001 births	3	Afternoon
Protons	Girls	2000 births	4	Afternoon
Electrons	Girls	1998 and 1999	4	Afternoon

FORMATS OF THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

ATOMS, BANTAMS, NEUTRONS and MICRONS - Each week, players in these age groups will be led through a 25-30 minute skills clinic, led by members of the LMSC coaching staff. During this time, each child will have his or her own size 3 soccer ball to work with. The primary emphasis of the skills clinic will be for the players to develop soccer skills, as well as develop their coordination and agility as related to the game of soccer.

After each skills clinic, the players will be divided into teams of 4-6 players. Each team will play a 30-40 minute game, playing four players against four. Players in these age groups will NOT be placed on set teams for the year. This is done so that players will be able to enjoy themselves in a non-pressure soccer environment and so that their parents will not have an incentive to worry about having a "winning season," "undefeated season," etc. All players are strongly encouraged to bring a size 3 soccer ball, with their name clearly written on it in magic marker, to each session. All players will receive an LMSC game shirt at their first practice. These divisions will all play at Penn Wynne Playground.

JUNIORS, INTERMEDIATES, QUASARS AND PROTONS - Each player in these divisions will be assigned to a team of 12-14 players for the season. Each team will have it's own coach. Each week, the players will meet for 90 minutes. The first 30 minutes will be devoted to working on soccer skills. Each player will be expected to bring a soccer ball (size 3 for Juniors and Quasars, size 4 for Intermediates and Protons) each week. During this 30 minute period, the coach will lead the players through various skill development activities.

This will be followed by a 50 minute soccer game where each team will play against one of the other teams in their division. Teams will play two simultaneous games of 5 vs. 5, similar to the format used in the Fall Program.

Team records and standings will NOT be kept, there will be no championships and no all star games. The emphasis of the program will be on enjoying the game of soccer itself.

ELECTRONS AND SENIORS - Each player in these divisions will be assigned to a team of 12-14 players for the season. Each team will have it's own coach. Each week, the players will meet for 90 minutes. The first 30 minutes will be devoted to working on soccer skills. Each player will be expected to bring a size 4 soccer ball. During this 30 minute period, the coach will lead the players through various skill development activities.

This will be followed by a 50 minute soccer game where each team will play against one of the other teams in their division. Games will be played 8 vs. 8. Team records and standings will NOT be kept, there will be no championships and no all star games. The emphasis of the program will be on enjoying the game of soccer itself.

OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

FIELD LOCATIONS - The Atoms, Neutrons, Bantams and Microns will all play at Penn Wynne Playground. Field assignments for all other divisions are not yet set. The exact field location for each division will be posted on our web site well before the start of the season.

TIME COMMITMENT - Players in the 7 - 10 year old divisions are placed on teams. As a courtesy to teammates, coaches and the LMSC program, players in these divisions will need to make a **strong commitment** to being at all games during the season. There are no games over Easter Weekend or over Memorial Day Weekend.

EQUIPMENT - By rule of the United States Soccer Federation, ALL players MUST wear shin guards to games and practices. For safety reasons, soccer shoes are strongly recommended instead of sneakers. Players should wear dark soccer shorts (navy or black) and white soccer socks. These items are available at most sporting goods stores including Sneaky Pete's Discount Sneakers in Ardmore, which carries our full line of LMSC items.

FINANCIAL AID - Our club is not-for-profit. Our objective is to provide all soccer loving youngsters with a chance to play. Players who are in need of financial assistance in order to play should state this on their registration form. One of the primary goals of LMSC is to not have any child be unable to play soccer due to financial reasons.

COACHING VOLUNTEERS - Our intramural program is dependent on having parents of players volunteer as coaches. PLEASE give consideration to volunteering as a coach. We provide head coaches with ample coaching material in order to make the program a success. You do not need to have played the game, you only need to have an interest in working with a small group of children and an ability to stay one or two steps ahead of them in learning the game.

REFUND POLICY - Requests for refunds will only be honored through April 1st. There will be a \$20 service charge for refund requests made before then. We will NOT issue refunds for any reason after April 1st.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE LMSC SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

Atoms, Neutrons, Bantams and Microns Divisions: The cost to register is \$85. Registrations should be received no later than March 20th although we will accept late registrations for these divisions if there are still openings. We will accept on-site registrations in these divisions ONLY IF there are still openings in the desired division.

Juniors, Intermediates, Quasars, Protons, Seniors and Electrons Divisions: The cost to register is \$85 if the registration is postmarked on or before March 20th. After March 20th, the registration fee is \$120 and we cannot guarantee a spot in the program. Once a division is filled, we will NOT be able to accept additional registrants, no matter when the registration is received. Be sure to register early, before the division that you requested becomes filled. Our web page will be updated regularly, showing which divisions still have openings. Since the players in the older divisions will need to be assigned to teams, we will need to receive all registrations by March 20th.

To register, please fill out a Spring Intramural Registration Form (found on page 9) and mail it, along with your check (payable to LMSC) to: LMSC, Box 360, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Team assignments, field locations and game times for the older divisions will be posted on our LMSC Web Site on April 1st. All players will need to visit our web site (www.lmsc.net) on or after April 4th for this information. You will **NOT** receive a confirmation notice in the mail.

Players in these divisions may request to be on a team with friends playing in the same division. We will make every effort to honor these requests but we cannot guarantee honoring such requests. Since we make team assignments starting March 20th, we will not be able to honor any car pool / teammate requests for registrations received after that date even if there are still openings in the specified division.

Team assignments, field locations and game times for the older divisions will be posted on our LMSC web site, www.lmsc.net on April 4th. All players will need to visit our web site on or after April 4th for this information. You will **NOT receive a confirmation notice in the mail.**

SPRING INTRAMURAL REFEREES AND FIELD CREW

Experienced soccer players ages 11 and up are invited to apply for positions in the Spring Intramural Program as referees and / or field crew workers. You do not need to have prior reffing experience. The program will run on Sunday afternoons starting on April 13th and continue every Sunday through June 15th, except for Easter Weekend and Memorial Day Weekend.

Level 1 Referees must be at least 11 years of age with at least two years of playing experience. Level 1 referees will work with our 5 and 6 year old divisions. Referees at these fields will be paid \$10 per session (each session lasts 70 minutes).

In addition to reffing games, Level 1 referees will be expected to help coach the players and teach them the rules of the game as they go along. Referees will be expected to ACTIVELY participate in the 20 minute skills clinic at the beginning of each session. They will be expected to work with the program commissioners in teaching the players the fundamental skills of dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, goalkeeping, etc. Referees will be expected to help with field setup and to help put equipment away at the end of the day.

Level 2 Referees will be responsible for officiating the 7-8 year old divisions. To qualify as a Level 2 referee, you must be at least 13 years of age OR be at least 11 years of age and have at least one season of reffing experience. Level 2 referees will be paid \$12 per game. Each game lasts one hour.

Level 3 Referees will be responsible for officiating the 9-10 year old divisions. To qualify as a Level 3 referee, you must be at least 15 years of age OR be at least 13 years of age and have at least two seasons of reffing experience. Level 3 referees will be paid \$14 per game. Each game lasts one hour.

Each Wednesday, the LMSC Referee Assignor will call people on the referee list until enough referees have been identified to cover all games for the upcoming Sunday. If called, you will need to let the Referee Assignor know if you are available to work that weekend. There is no penalty for not being available to referee. If however, you do commit to reffing and then fail to show up, you will be removed from the referee list for the remainder of the season and all of the next Fall Intramural Season.

All referees will be expected to wear soccer attire, including a soccer shirt, soccer flats and soccer shorts. Basketball sneakers, heavy metal tee shirts, etc. will not be tolerated. Referees will be expected to provide their own whistle and watch each time that they referee.

Field Crew workers will be responsible for setting up the goals, taking down the goals, loading and unloading equipment, etc. Field crew workers will also be responsible for lining the fields and collecting trash at the end of the weekend. Field Crew workers must be at least 13 years of age. They will be paid \$12 per hour.

If you are interested in reffing or working on a field crew, fill out the application form on page 11 and return the form to our Bryn Mawr address by March 20th. If you require additional information, please e-mail us or call us.

2008 SUMMER AND FALL SOCCER CAMPS

TRAVEL TEAM CAMPS, INTRAMURAL CAMPS AND PEEWEE CAMPS

LMSC is now accepting registrations for their 18th Annual Summer and Fall Soccer Camps. The LMSC Summer and Fall Soccer Camps will offer three different programs in June, including a travel team camp, an intramural camp and a PeeWee camp for 3 and 4 year olds. The travel team camps will be geared towards advanced players and will be open only to LMSC travel team players. Advanced technical skills and tactical work will be stressed at these camps. Small-sided games will be played at the end of each session.

The highly popular PeeWees camp will return. This 90 minute per day program is open to 3 and 4 year olds.

There will be four separate camps offered this summer and fall:

June 23 - June 27	4:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Summer Travel Team Camp
June 23 - June 27	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Summer Intramural Camp (ages 5 - 11)
June 23 - June 27	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Summer PeeWees Camp (ages 3 - 4)
August 11 - August 15	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Fall Pre-Season Travel Team Camp

The Summer Travel Team Camp will run from 4:30 PM until 8:00 PM each day. This camp is only open to players currently playing in the LMSC Travel Team Program. Intramural players and non-LMSC travel team players will not be accepted into this camp. The camps will focus on more advanced technical and tactical training. Skill development and tactical field awareness will be the top priority at these advanced camps. Each camper will receive an LMSC Summer Soccer Camp tee-shirt as well as a camp soccer ball.

The Intramural Camp will run from 8:30 AM until 12:00 PM each day. The first part of each session will focus on individual skill development and small group tactics in a fun, enjoyable environment. Players will spend a significant amount of time with their own soccer ball, developing their technical skills. The second part of each session will focus on small-sided games where the children will learn to apply their skills in game situations. Each camper will receive an LMSC Summer Soccer Camp tee-shirt as well as a camp soccer ball.

PeeWees Soccer Camp - LMSC will again run a special 90 minute per day PeeWees camp for 3 and 4 year olds. The emphasis of this camp will be on teaching the basic skills of the game to youngsters as well as learning to enjoy the game of soccer. Our staff will offer a variety of fun soccer activities to the players, all with the primary emphasis of having a "fun-filled experience in a soccer environment."

Fall Pre-Season Travel Team Camp - LMSC will again run their Pre-Season Travel Team camp before the travel team season starts. This camp will ONLY be open to current LMSC travel team players. Non-LMSC players, and non-travel team players will not be accepted to this camp. LMSC will again be hiring the U.K. Elite Soccer Camps organization to run this camp.

Camp Locations - We will not know the exact location of the camps for awhile. We do however anticipate that the camps will be at the same location as the 2007 camps. The June camps in 2007 were at Welsh Valley Middle School (on the Tower Lane side of the school) while the August Pre-Season Travel Team camp in 2007 was held at Amherst Field, located on the opposite side of Bryn Mawr Avenue from Bala Cynwyd Middle School.

How To Register - The cost for the Summer Travel Team Camp and the Summer Intramural Camp is \$140. The PeeWees camp is \$80. The Fall Pre-Season Travel Team Camp is \$160. Checks should be made out to the Lower Merion Soccer Club (or LMSC). The registration form (found on page 13 of this newsletter) and check should be mailed to: LMSC, Box 360, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. Registrations for the June camps should be received by June 1st at the latest. Registrations for the August camp should be received no later than August 1st.

For More Information about the any of these camps, please send an e-mail to: soccer@lmsc.net.

2008 SPRING INTRAMURAL REFEREE AND FIELD CREW APPLICATION FORM

This form must be returned by mail no later than March 20th

If you are interested in being a referee in the Spring Intramural Program, please check the appropriate level box. Note that you may only check ONE referee level box.

Level 3 Referee - Must be at least 15 years of age OR be at least 13 years of age with at least two seasons of reffing experience.

Level 2 Referee - Must be at least 13 years of age OR be at least 11 years of age with at least one season of reffing experience.

Level 1 Referee - Must be at least 11 years of age with at least two years of playing experience.

Field Crew - Must be at least 13 years of age.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Age: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

List Previous Soccer Playing Experience:

List Previous Soccer Referee Experience (if any):

Please return this form no later than March 20th to: LMSC, Box 360, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

LMSC GORILLAS REUNITE

One of the first teams in LMSC history to play at very high levels nationally was the Lower Merion Gorillas. The Gorillas first played together in 1987, then known as the Gladwyne-Penn Valley Gorillas. In 1989, the Gorillas played up a year in the Delco League's top division and were league semifinalists. In 1990, the Gorillas became the first team in club history to win the Indoor State Championship and the Outdoor State Championship in the same year. They followed that up in the fall by winning the Delco Soccer League's top division at Under 14.

In December, 2007, the Gorillas had a major reunion in the area. 13 of the 16 players from the team made it back to the Philadelphia area. Some of the players, who are now all 30 years old, brought their wives and children. Many of the player's parents made it to the Reunion which was held at The Boathouse in Conshohocken. Two days later, on Christmas Eve morning, the players had a reunion indoor game at Rocket Sports. Unfortunately, many of the players lost the form they had from the 1990's when they won a total of 25 indoor tournaments.

Today, many of the Gorillas are still involved in soccer. Among the players at the Reunion were:

- Jon Conway, now an eight year veteran of MLS soccer and the starting goalkeeper for New York Red Bulls
- Adrian Cox, head coach for The Episcopal Academy and the LMSC U-11A Lightning
- Will Nord, head coach for Under 8 Boys Developmental Travel Team and a high school soccer coach
- Nick Harmelin, corporate manager for the New England Revolution (formerly with the San Jose Earthquake)
- Hans Davies who scored the winning goal in the Gorillas' 1990 Indoor State Championship game
- Matt Quinn who scored the winning goal in the Gorillas' 1990 Outdoor State Championship game
- Bill Heuisler and Nathan Laver, two of the goofiest people who you would ever meet, but great guys
- Evan Monsky whose claim to fame was playing point guard at LMHS when Kobe Bryant was a junior



The Lower Merion Gorillas in 1990, immediately after winning the Under 13 State Championship.

Front Row: Hans Davies, Josh Pincus, Will Nord, Jay Getto, Jamie Griffin, Evan Monsky, Sean Furber, Jobey Hollinger and Adrian Cox

Middle Row: Matt Quinn, Jon Conway, Razzaq Bauman, Bill Heuisler, Nathan, Laver, Nick Harmelin, Todd Davidson

Back Row: Head Coach Biff Sturla, Assistant Coach Gary Getto, Goalie Coach Brian Kammersgaard

Note: The next year, the Gorillas added future National Team player and World Cup player, Ben Olsen.



The Gorillas Reunion, December 2007

In attendance were: Assistant Coach Gary Getto, Head Coach Biff Sturla, Hans Davies, Nathan Laver, Jobey Hollinger, Adrian Cox, Josh Pincus, Nick Harmelin, Matt Quinn, Jay Getto, Jon Conway, Evan Monsky, Bill Heuisler, Will Nord, Assistant Coach Steve Blumenthal and Todd Davidson. Two days later, former player Sean Furber would join the team for the reunion indoor game at Rocket Sports



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