

Montclair Soccer Pitch

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Editor's Letter

Montclair Soccer families had a busy April: spring soccer is in full swing, the annual Fall Registration Event is behind us, and our Annual General Meeting was held on April 14.

Welcome to all the new board members who were elected at the Annual General Meeting, and thank you to those who are continuing to serve on the board. As newsletter editor, I've gotten a glimpse at the incredible dedication and organization it takes to run an all-volunteer organization like MSC. And wow, there are some really dedicated individuals out there who make soccer a reality for all our children.

Thank you to Peter Costantindis, who will continue to serve on the board as Past President, and welcome to newly elected president Meredith Brown. We're looking forward to a *President's Message* from Meredith next month, but I'm happy to have the opportunity to write this stand-in editor's letter for the May edition of our newsletter.

All the people involved in coordinating the Fall Registration Event also deserve a huge thank you. What a feat to get all those busy parents to show up at Montera with their paperwork in hand! And thank you in advance to the age group coordinators and volunteers, who are busy processing all that paperwork.

If you're starting to feel guilty reading this long list of thank you's, don't worry, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to volunteer. Take a look at page 2, *Help Wanted*. Or you can check out our great new wiki, <http://montclair.soccer.pbwiki.org/Volunteers>, for information about open volunteer positions and this year's new volunteer policy.

Enjoy the wonderful spring weather, and don't forget to get your newsletter items in by the 24th of each month.

Monica Yu

newsletter@montclairsoccer.org

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 15	Registration closes
May 18	U6 Spring season ends
May 24	No games this weekend
May 31	Spring season ends (U8 and up)
June 14	Earthquakes vs. LA Galaxy at McAfee Coliseum
Aug. 3	Earthquakes vs. LA Galaxy at McAfee Coliseum



Merchandise Sales at Registration

Thank you, Sweatshirt Sales Crew! These hardworking volunteers sold \$3400 worth of beautiful Montclair Soccer Club merchandise during the Registration Event. They also organized, labeled, inventoried and stored all our stock with great enthusiasm and attention to detail. It was a pleasure working with each of them!

In addition to raising funds these sales help you, our members, positively represent our Club throughout the community.

We have a great opportunity for you to earn your volunteer hours with two positions helping organize the purchasing (<http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.org/Volunteers+-+Fundraising+Procurement>) and inventory (<http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.org/Volunteers+-+Fundraising+Controller>) for MSC's Merchandise Sales effort. Each position is estimated at 6-8 hours working mostly from home using the up-to-date Excel spreadsheet. Please contact Elaine Connolly at ec@finetimek9.com.

If you didn't get a chance to make a purchase during registration, we will be selling club sweatshirts, t-shirts, fleeces, polos, and caps again during Photo Day in the fall. You'll hear much more about Photo Day closer to the event.

Note: Any Clippers Coaches who need to purchase a Polo Shirt, please contact Elaine Connolly at ec@finetimek9.com for an order form.

Help Wanted

Montclair Soccer Club is always in need of parent volunteers. The following positions are currently open.

Field Volunteers: If you fill one of these positions, your team will not need to do field set up duties to secure a practice slot. To volunteer, contact the Fields Coordinator at fields@montclairsoccer.org.

- Field Set Up Trainer
- Field Set Up Scheduler
- Merritt Liaison
- Shepherd Canyon Field Steward
- OUSD Liaison

Other Volunteer Opportunities: please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@montclairsoccer.org.

- Equipment Coordinator
- Fundraising/T-Shirt Sales - Procurement
- Fundraising/T-Shirt Sales - Controller
- Publicity Coordinator
- Coach Evaluation Coordinator
- Web Site Coordinator
- U12 Equipment Manager
- Coach Coordinator (experienced coaches only, please)

Got a Clippers player? There are LOTS of Clipper opportunities. Email Doug, the Clippers Coordinator, or see the Clippers wiki page at <http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.org/Volunteers+-+Clipper+Positions>

Cal Girls' Summer Camps

Sign up for 2008 girls' summer soccer camp at Cal, directed by the UC Berkeley head coach and staff.

Full Day & Half Day camps are available June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, and July 21-25.

Goalkeeper/Striker Camp is offered July 12-13.

Advanced Camp (Resident/Day) is offered July 13-17.

Team Camps are available all summer long. Please call/email Jennifer "JT" Thomas, Cal Women's Assistant Soccer Coach & Director of Soccer Operations at 510-643-9426 or jtthomas@berkeley.edu for details.

For details, please see <http://www.calbears.com/camps>

Introducing Montclair Soccer Club's 2008-09 Board Members

Montclair Soccer Club elected new board members for the 2008-09 season at the Annual General Meeting on April 14. Get to know the Montclair Soccer Club board by reading about their roles and backgrounds in the brief bios below.

Meredith Brown is the newly elected President of the Montclair Soccer Club. She believes in the benefits of positive coaching and has been coaching youth soccer for more than seven years. Meredith has two children, both of whom play in the Clippers program.

Kimberly Guillen is Vice President. She has two daughters in the club, coaches one Clippers and one recreational team, and is a parent, referee, and adult player. Kimberly was initially drawn to MSC because its U8 program had all-girls teams. She was further attracted to the club by Ken Gibson's efforts to build a soccer program for inner-city kids in West Oakland. Working with Ken, Kimberly organized a partnership between the Positive Coaching Alliance and the Jack London Youth Soccer League in 2001. Subsequently, she spearheaded the organization of New Parents Night and Coaches Day in 2002; these are now annual orientation events. In 2004 Kimberly helped form MSC's micro soccer program for U6 players.

Leslie Kraitchman is Secretary and U8 Commissioner. She came to MSC in 2004, when her daughter decided to move from gymnastics to U8 soccer. Leslie has coached her daughter's team since 2005. After her son joined the club in 2006, Leslie served as the U6 Coordinator for one season. In addition to frantically trying to capture the events at board meetings, she now also leads the U8 program, and has filled in as U8 Boys Coordinator for the past year.

Stephen Depetris is Treasurer. He has served MSC in many roles, beginning as a referee in 1999, when his son started playing U10. Stephen served as Referee Coordinator from 2001 to 2004, joined the Board in 2002, and was elected Treasurer in 2004. As Business Manager for Bishop O'Dowd High School, he has been instrumental in arranging facilities for the various meetings and classes needed by MSC, including several referee classes. Stephen's son, Gannon, stopped playing soccer after U12 and got his referee license in 2003. Stephen and Gannon continue to referee in Jack London YSSL and at the high school level.

Peter Costantinidis is Past President and Webmaster. He has served MSC as a parent volunteer, having never been a coach or referee. Peter became Photo Day Organizer in 2001 when his daughter started playing U10. Peter joined the board in 2003 and became Vice President in 2005. In 2007 he succeeded Jeff Wood as President. Peter's daughter is now in her last year at MSC before going to college. He plans to spend most of his remaining volunteer time migrating the club's web site to the new wiki.

Pam Hoffman is an At Large board member and the club's Registrar, a position she has held since the dawn of time (or when her daughter was in fourth grade). Pam is now "childless" at MSC; her daughter will soon be a junior in college and her son abandoned soccer at a young age for American football. For the past 11 years Pam has served as Registrar, Board Member, Vice President, Age Group Coordinator, and has worked with outreach soccer in West Oakland. She gets really excited when all paperwork gets turned in on time.

Doug Kreiss is an At Large board member and has been Clippers Coordinator since 2005. He has been a Clippers coach since 2004. Doug has also coached youth soccer in San Leandro and Castro Valley and at the high school level. Doug began playing and coaching soccer while attending UC Berkeley, where he earned a B.A. in physical education; he later gained an M.A. in recreation administration from the University of Illinois. Doug was responsible for bringing the 24-7 UK Soccer Academy to train the Clippers teams, and under his direction the program has grown from eight to 19 teams. Doug has coached his two daughters' teams since the elder was a U10 player, in 1998. Both girls have played with the Clippers.

Tony Plotkin is at At Large board member and Practice Fields Coordinator. He has coached in the club since 2001, when his daughter started playing. Tony became a referee in 2004, and a board member and Clippers coach in 2005. He loves being involved with youth soccer, and that's a good thing because his younger son will start playing in the U6 program this fall. Tony anticipates hanging around this club for a long time.

Steve Shub is an At Large board member and MSC's liaison with the league. He has been affiliated with the club

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since 1995, has earned several MSC Coach of the Year awards, and is the recipient of the club's highest honor—the Leo Eisler Lifetime Achievement award. Steve was a long-time Class 4 coach and now leads the U12G Clippers. He is also active at Bishop O'Dowd High School, coaching the junior varsity and freshman boys' teams. Steve holds CYSA E and Goalkeeper coaching licenses and is a referee. He played soccer in high school, and now manages and plays for an adult competitive team.

Dan Sommer has served as an At Large board member and Referee Coordinator since 2007. He first coached for MSC in 1998, leading his daughter's U8 team. Dan has been a referee since 1982, and has worked adult amateur, college, high school, and youth games. He earned the club's John Murphy Referees Award in 2006. Dan's daughter has "graduated" from the club, and his son plays for the Bay Oaks.

Jeff Wood is an At Large board member. He was club President in 2005 and 2006. Jeff has also served the club as coaching coordinator and tournament coordinator. He coached his son's team for 10 years, beginning in 1995, and then coached his daughter's Clippers team for two years. As his son heads to college and his daughter embarks on a high school career, Jeff looks forward to sitting in the stands and second-guessing coaches, albeit quietly!

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The *Montclair Soccer Pitch* is a once-a-month newsletter for members of the Montclair Soccer Club community. This newsletter is our primary communication mechanism for information and announcements. However, we will continue to use email to disseminate time-critical information.

The newsletter will include such content as open volunteer positions, recruiting coaches or players, upcoming events, referee news and information, tournament results, and general interest local soccer news.

Submit news items and announcements by the 24th of each month to newsletter@montclairsoccer.org. Items should be as complete as possible and include appropriate contact information. Most articles should be limited to a couple of paragraphs.

"Submit newsletter items by the 24th of each month."

About Our Organization...

We generally meet on the second Monday of each month. Meeting changes are always reflected in our online calendar.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. They are a good opportunity to find ways to help make a difference within our Club.

Our meetings take place at Bishop O'Dowd in the Dominican Hall Board Room. Bishop O'Dowd is at 9500 Stearns Ave (I580 to Golf Links Rd exit; continue on 98th Ave up the hill to Stearns Ave; right to campus entrance). The Dominican Hall Board Room is the first building inside the gate on the left just past the chapel. There will be signs directing you to the meeting room on the first floor. Park anywhere.