



# LAYSL Newsletter

October 1998

<http://www.roadrunner.com/~laysl/>

[laysl@newmexico.com](mailto:laysl@newmexico.com)

## ⚽ 1998 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1998 Annual General Meeting of the Los Alamos Youth Soccer League will be held on 23 Nov 1998 at the Mesa Public Library, in upstairs meeting rooms 1 & 2, from 7:00-9:00 PM. All parents, coaches, referees, other volunteers, and interested individuals are invited to attend and to participate in the discussions and decisions about the course our League will take over the next year.

One item of business is to fill 5 two-year Board of Director positions which expire in even years: President (John Courtright), Secretary (Bob Walker), Referee Coordinator (Kim Thomas), Hill Coordinator (Dave Goggin), and Publicity Coordinator (Bill Flor). A nominating Committee (April Nakaoka and Dave Goggin) is soliciting candidates. To date, they have the following slate: Referee Coordinator (Steve Shaw, who's been assisting Kim Thomas); Hill Coordinator (Dave Goggin) and Publicity Coordinator (Bill Flor) have agreed to run for re-election to their current positions; President and Secretary (no candidates so far). If you're interested in serving on the Board in one of these capacities, or if you'd like to nominate another interested individual for a position, please contact a member of the nominating committee.

If you want to help the League but you aren't able to make the Board member commitment, you can, of course, contribute to the League in other valuable ways. Volunteers are always needed in many other capacities to keep our program running (coach, ref-

*(ANNUAL MEETING, continued on page 5)*

## ⚽ WALL-to-WALL ⚽ EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

**(that means everyone!)**  
**Promptly after Fall season!**  
**See pg. 5 for details!**

## LAYSL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, 23 Nov 1998**  
**7:00 - 9:00 PM**  
**Mesa Public Library**  
**(upstairs meeting rooms 1 & 2)**

## ⚽ THE PREZ SAYS John Courtright

The kids are in school, soccer has started—wow, where did the summer go?! I just figured out what each kid was doing, and now the schedule's changed again! By now, soccer for 1998-99 has been off and running, and this Fall we have about 860 kids playing soccer. Congratulations to everyone who's playing, and thanks to all the coaches, coordinators, refs, the rest of the Board, and other volunteers who work very hard to make the whole thing happen.

The Board would like everything to run even smoother. After last Spring, the biggest problem seems to be communication among the entire League. The web site has helped tremendously, but even high-tech e-mail can't entirely replace a simple phone call to ensure the right folks know a game is canceled or to say a new net is needed somewhere. Don't take anything for granted when something is wrong or needs to be changed. We, the Board, need more feedback from everyone on how we can improve the League. We want input regarding summer

*(THE PREZ SAYS, continued on page 2)*

## ⚽ ⚽ ⚽ INSIDE ⚽ ⚽ ⚽

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*(THE PREZ SAYS, continued from page 1)*

camps, ideas on the proposed Director of Coaching position, and input on the day-to-day operations of the League. Martha Katko has done a great job as the new Registrar. She has some great ideas to help participants get registered easier, as well as streamlining her job. This registration period was her first, and I heard she survived—barely.

Soccer camps are a vital part of any training program. Camps introduce new ideas, different styles of coaching, and provide concentrated areas of teaching that can't get done during the season. Currently, LAYSL assists with the Gecko, British, and German camps, as well as with a few specific team camps and individuals who work a little extra to provide more training in LA. The financial aspect of all these camps is a small benefit to the League, but what really pays off is more instruction for the kids in our program—and we don't have to set up and run the camps ourselves. But are the current offerings the only possible ones? Of course not. Some people go to Albuquerque; some out of state. The question is, what do people in our League want, as well as what do the coaches think our kids need?

Nothing formal has been decided on a Director of Coaching position, but so far we've had positive feedback toward proceeding with developing a proposal. Most concerns have been toward registration fees, and the answer is still yes, fees would have to go up. Even so, when compared to Santa Fe, whose players pay as much for only eight weeks, and to other programs in town, soccer is a great deal for an athletic program for kids of all ages. By the annual meeting in November, we'll have a formal proposal to discuss with the general membership.

This is my last newsletter, as my term as League President ends in November. My tenure has been a great experience for the fact that so many volunteers work so hard at their jobs without being asked each season. These veterans, most of whom who have no "formal" League positions, work hard to solve the day-to-day problems and do so without fuss or fanfare. Most importantly, they don't pass the buck.

Thanks to my partners on the Board. I wish to thank them publicly for all their hard work and dedication. Without these experienced individuals, our League would struggle to succeed. Kim Thomas will be sorely missed. Kim takes her job as referee trainer and coordinator seriously and executes the job professionally. The District Commissioner, as well as the State organization, recognized the high degree of professionalism our refs exhibited during the State Cup preliminary rounds here in May, and Kim Thomas is the sole reason we got such high praise for that.

*(THE PREZ SAYS, continued on page 3)*

## ⚽ FROM THE REGISTRAR Martha Katko

We had a good turnout with our registration this summer. More than 860 children are playing LAYSL soccer this fall. I appreciate those of you who've been patient with me this past summer while I learned my job. Many of you took the time to fill out your paperwork thoroughly and return it in a timely manner. This makes a huge difference to the registrar.

It is my goal to get every child who wants to play soccer onto a team, but parents have to do their part. They need to be responsible for being aware of the registration procedures and deadlines, filling out forms completely and returning them without unnecessary delay. While a July deadline may sound very early to some, there's a huge amount of paperwork and just one person to do it. In addition, time is needed to collect missing fees, get unsigned forms signed, round up missing forms, etc. We then have to determine how many coaches are needed and who they will be. After the draft, team information needs to be entered into the computer for each player, late registrants are enrolled when possible and assigned to teams, and rosters distributed. All of this requires coordinating a great number of people (volunteers!) and many hours of work which must be completed by the NMUSA deadline.

There has been some discussion about making changes to our registration system to ease the crunch felt after the deadline. Potential changes include starting registration earlier in May, setting an earlier deadline before late fees are applied and an earlier final deadline. Exceptions might be made for people who move to town after the deadline. I would like to do away with our previous system of automatically extending the first deadline. The number of people who receive their registration material in the mail in May and don't mail it back until August is astounding. The BoD has also discussed having one or two registration nights when people can come register in person. Perhaps there could be a small discount for doing so. All changes that are made will be well publicized. Registration changes will be one of many interesting topics we discuss at our Annual Meeting in November. If you have thoughts on the matter, I urge you to call me or attend the meeting.

The registrar job is a part-time job. I hold another job outside the home and have family obligations as well. Please have some respect for my privacy as well as that of my family. The League telephone and recorder are installed in my home. While I am committed to the registrar position, I cannot answer

*(REGISTRAR, continued on page 3)*

(*THE PREZ SAYS*, continued from page 2)

Her guidance on the Board is a big reason our League works smoothly. She was an immense help in getting me settled in as President, and wonderful to work with in solving problems. Thanks, Kim—see you on the field! Steve Shaw has been nominated for the Referee Coordinator position, but he (or anyone else) will be hard pressed to fill her shoes. Bob Walker, the current Secretary and past President, earns his claim to fame as being the right person to ask a question regarding precedence or history. I sincerely believe the League runs smoother if we try not to cut off our noses to spite our faces, and if we learn from our own history. Bob does much of his work off the Board as well. Not only does he help train referees, but he's a referee himself and also one of those sneaky field liners who does the job and hardly anyone notices until the grass is ready to bury the lines again. Thanks, Bob! Bill Flor is a true-blue volunteer. Though he has no kids in the League any more, Bill wants to see our League succeed in soccer. As Publicity Coordinator, he's editor-in-chief of our "little rag" (you're holding it), published 3 times a year—his newsletter is tops in the entire State. Bill has offered to stay on another term as Publicity Coordinator, and was another great problem solver for the Board, as well as helping us remember where we came from. Dave Goggin has also offered to remain as Hill Coordinator, as he finally realized the job "ain't so bad" as long as you go at it with blinders.

In addition to the three candidates listed above, the League presently has openings for President and Secretary. If you wish to help the League and join a wonderful group of people to work with, please call April Nakaoka or Dave Goggin to be put on the nomination slate for the annual meeting in November.

To close, I hope everyone has a great year—and a few pats on the back to individuals who go the extra mile to improve soccer in Los Alamos. Molly Cernicek passed her B license. Phil Pellette went to Florida to get his C license. Roy Michelotti got his C license. Adolffy Hoisie took the D license class. The League will pay the fees associated with licensure so long as the program is successfully completed. Simple attendance without licensure is not reimbursed.

Also note that Los Alamos players fared well in this year's 3v3 tournament in Albuquerque. Two teams were invited to the regional tournament (also in Albuquerque). Way to go: Patrick Ziehm, Trevor Jones, Mike Fuselier, and Jonathan Lee; as well as Kristen Sussman, Kristen Hemphill, Hannah Johnson, Rosalyn Leitch, and Melissa Martinez.



(*REGISTRAR*, continued from page 2)

that phone each time it rings. Likewise, I won't answer very early or very late calls. Do not call me on my home phone unless specifically invited to do so. Likewise, please do not show up on my doorstep unannounced. I will not answer. Your emergency is not my emergency. Remember, you're the "only one" to you, but there are almost 1,000 others. There's a mailbox labeled LAYS� for drop off or pick up. If you have questions, call me at 662-2181 and, if I'm available, I will answer. Otherwise, I make every effort to return calls in a timely fashion. If you reach the message, *please leave one*, as otherwise I'm not able to get back to you.



## ⚽ **HIRING A PAID HEAD COACH FOR LOS ALAMOS—a discussion for the Annual General Meeting**

**Debbie Smith / John Courtright**

Coaches, players and parents all have opinions about the way we should teach, coach, and run our soccer games and practices. We have tried to develop our own guidelines, based on the limited experience that our volunteers possess; however, we are now at a size that warrants some real leadership, with soccer experience behind it. The additional player fees—about \$25 a year—would bring us in line with the cost of other youth sports in town, and would result in the following benefits:

- both the recreational and advanced programs would have a leader and training resource
- local training opportunities
- someone to search out and maximize the local talent we have available for coaching
- an expert to attend practices of our teams on a regular basis to help/give pointers
- more consistent development of players, with defined coaching expectations
- we would be able to host tournaments, for both recreational and advanced teams
- the kids would benefit from better coaching

This would be a major step for LAYS�, and we encourage all of you to attend the annual general meeting so we can discuss, debate, and make a good decision. Please attend the meeting.



## ⚽ PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

Bill Flor

“Communication” has been mentioned in several other places in this newsletter. We have a large and diverse organization, and without good internal communications, we can have groups of our people heading off in sometimes conflicting directions.

One of the tools we can use is our web site, which receives frequent visits from our League members. It can **complement** other tools, such as coach and Board meetings, the registration banner on the bridge, this printed newsletter, phone calls, field lining “parties,” clinics and training, our community newspaper (more on that later), etc. For others to know what you have planned, and to participate in that activity, you must use effective means of communicating with them (and usually more than one medium).

While the above may be obvious to some, we seem with increasing frequency to face situations where one element in the League wonders why something has been planned by another part of the League that “conflicts” with an activity they have in mind. We supplement our printed newsletter calendar with an on-line calendar of events (and an on-line submission form) which could serve as a “clearing house” of planned activities, and we work hard to try to keep it current. Too many times recently, we got word of an activity in some part of the League far too late to keep an effective calendar, to make timely announcements, or to try to avoid conflict with some other event that appeared to have a similar target audience.

We also try to use additional means of disseminating information. The Board has an e-mail distribution. The referees have their own e-mail list. So do the advanced team coaches. We send articles to *The Monitor* for Sports Digest announcements—which have too often encountered great difficulty getting into print. When our community newspaper has trouble putting in a few lines of timely announcements to get our coaches or referees to training, to announce our clinics, or to get our players registered on time, we may have a communication problem that extends beyond the boundaries of the League.

When you’re starting to plan an activity in which you’d like League members (or the general public, for that matter) to participate, please consult the on-line calendar for existing activities **first**. Then let me know as soon as possible, so that we can enter your planned event in the calendar, note a place where further information can be obtained, and help with its publicity (if needed). Let’s avoid the “Why does your clinic conflict with my fundraiser?” syndrome!



## ⚽ LAYS� WEB SITE

Visit our web site for much more information:

<http://www.roadrunner.com/~laysl/>

Send us e-mail about League activities:

[laysl@newmexico.com](mailto:laysl@newmexico.com)

## ⚽ '98-'99 LAYS� CALENDAR (visit our web site for more details!)

11 Oct	Young Olympian Tryouts
16-17 Oct	FINAL weekend of Fall '98 recreational matches
17-30 Oct	Wall-to-Wall equipment inventory!!
26 Oct	Regular Board meeting (*)
23 Nov	Annual LAYS� General Meeting
6 Jan	Spring '99 supplemental registration OPENS
25 Jan	Regular Board meeting (*)
6 Feb	Spring registration CLOSES for “fall only” extensions
22 Feb	Regular Board meeting (*)
27 Feb	Spring registration CLOSES for new players
10 Mar	All-coaches meeting
??-?? Mar	Spring coach and referee clinics (*)
22 Mar	Regular Board meeting (*)
22 Mar	First Spring '99 recreational practices allowed
9-10 Apr	FIRST weekend of Spring '99 recreational matches
26 Apr	Regular Board meeting (*)
10-21 May	'99-'00 Advanced Teams tryouts
11 May	'99-'00 registration OPENS
14-15 May	FINAL weekend of Spring '99 recreational matches
24 May	Regular Board meeting (*)
28 Jun	Regular Board meeting (*)
5 Jul	'99-'00 registration CLOSES
26 Jul	Regular Board meeting (*)
9 Aug	'99-'00 late registration DEADLINE
23 Aug	Regular Board meeting (*)

(\*) = see web site for details of place and time

## ⚽ LAYS� BOARD OF DIRECTORS (October 1998)

John Courtright	662-9216	President
Bob Walker	672-9749	Secretary
Herb Fry	662-6491	Treasurer
Kim Thomas	672-3354	Referee Coordinator
Dave Goggin	662-3537	Hill Coordinator
April Nakaoka	672-3323	White Rock Coordinator
Lore Pellette	672-0389	Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator
Debbie Smith	672-1793	Advanced Team Coordinator
Bill Flor	662-7885	Publicity Coordinator
Martha Katko	662-2181	Registrar

## ⚽ WHITE ROCK COORDINATOR

April Nakaoka

I think this was the smoothest running draft/equipment pick-up yet. The referees got their info out, the registrar introduced herself and cleared up any questions, the prez did a cute skit, we scheduled our practice fields and times, picked up equipment and got our new teams—all in one semi-painful night. Some of the larger age groups had a long night and some of the younger ones stayed for more information than they probably wanted. Having the Hill and White Rock teams meeting together also helped alleviate any confusion or lack of communication, because they were right there drafting together. Therefore the phone calls and e-mails were minimal this season, as teams seem more even/fair. You can't please all of the people all of the time (some parents feel they're child's team is too small and others feel it's too big) but at least the coaches are happy! Remember—if you ever have complaints, there's always the volunteer approach: "If you're in charge, you're in control, and the power is yours." Which brings me to being on the nominating committee. If you'd like to volunteer, but dribbling and being with other people's kids isn't of interest to you, how about being on the Board? Call me or Dave Goggin. Speaking of Dave—thanks Dave for heading the fall draft and doing all the schedules!!! Coaches, if you have any requests for spring game schedules, you'd better let Dave know, as he has "the power."



## ⚽ WALL-TO-WALL EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Immediately after the Fall 1998 season, there will be a "wall-to-wall" inventory of **ALL** LAYS� equipment. In order to plan responsibly for replacement expenditures next year—to continue to use equipment that's in satisfactory condition and to plan and budget for adequate replacements—**every individual holding any LAYS� equipment** should return it either to the Equipment Coordinator, directly to the storage locker, or to the applicable Age Group Coordinator as soon as the last Fall match is played—NO LATER THAN 30 Oct 98. Equipment is our major expense, and an adequate assessment of its condition could make thousands of dollars' difference in next year's equipment costs (and have a direct effect on the '99-'00 registration fees you'll pay!). Everyone's cooperation is greatly appreciated, in order to keep our costs down.



(ANNUAL MEETING, continued from page 1)

eree, age-group coordinator, fields, etc., etc.). Please come to the Annual Meeting and/or see any Board member to express your interest.

Other business will include proposed changes in registration procedures and deadlines, a proposed Director of Coaching position for the League, discussions about the registration fees for the coming year, Board member reports, and member feedback. See other articles in this issue of *The Soccer Pitch* for more details on these issues.



## ⚽ REFEREES NEEDED!!

Kim Thomas

Those of you with U8 players have undoubtedly noticed the lack of referees this fall. Older age groups have also been adversely affected. Over the last few years, we've seen fewer and fewer new referee volunteers while at the same time, attrition has taken its toll. Most of our student referees from the past few years have graduated, now play with the High School or other competitive teams and aren't available, or, sadly, have decided not to continue as referees. Some of the veterans have had to slow way down and others have moved on to other pursuits. We're down from 40+ referees of two years ago to fewer than 25 referees to cover about 200 rec games. AND, this doesn't count all the competitive and HS games many of these same referees also cover. **BOTTOM LINE:** we need new blood!

So...mark your calendars! The Spring Referee Clinics will be either the week of March 15 or the week of March 22 (just before Spring Break). This Spring, every U8 team will be required to have a trained referee (someone who has attended the Spring U8 clinic—Tuesday night of Clinic week). U10 teams will also be asked to recruit at least one new referee. U10 coaches should begin recruiting parent referees now! These recruits will have to attend the full clinic, take the referee test and register with USSF (LAYS� pays the fees) so they need plenty of opportunity to get used to the idea.

Without at least a dozen new recruits, we will only be able to supply a very limited number of referees for the youngest age groups. A trained referee, even a beginner, is much preferred for the safety of your players and for the enjoyment of everyone. Please help the players and the League by doing your part to enlist new volunteers.



## ⚽ DUKE CITY FEES— an explanation

Debbie Smith

After much negotiation, it appears that the Duke City fees assessed against our advanced teams have been well spent. The team fees collected from all Duke City participants have allowed us to secure the Bernalillo Complex for all U-11 and older games.

While the benefits were not clear in the beginning, we can now recognize them:

- travel mileage is cut down from Los Alamos
- we are helping fund our state complex
- travel between games in families is easier
- our kids see lots of high level play at one place
- we play on excellent fields with ample parking

Since we are now paying members, we may also have more say in the operations. If you have concerns, or suggestions, please contact me. Also, please report referee no-shows to me, as this is a part of the fee structure. See you on the pitch.



## ⚽ YOUNG OLYMPIANS TRYOUTS

Debbie Smith

This year's Young Olympians tryouts are for boys and girls born 1984-1987. The initial tryouts are being held Sunday 11 Oct at Fort Marcy Park in Santa Fe. '84s and '85s are from 12-2 PM, and '86s and '87s are from 2-4 PM. There is no need to pre-register. Players should bring a ball, water, shoes, shin guards, and light/dark shirts. A fee of \$30 is payable if selected to the team. There will also be tournament travel fees if selected.

Young Olympians is a selection process for advanced soccer players, which allows players a chance to practice and play with high-level players from throughout the state. It was begun as a precursor to the Olympic Development Program, which starts at the state level, and continues through national selections for the older age groups. Los Alamos has had quite a few players at the state level and has had several players make the regional level. New Mexico has had several players selected to the national pool.

The Young Olympians Program is by straight age group years, except that '88s may try out to play up to '87. There will be a boys and girls team for each age group from each district throughout the state. Our district will take its teams to play against the other teams in a tournament in Las Cruces 7-8 Nov. At that point, players will be selected to participate in the

"centers of excellence" sessions for this year.

Players born in 1985 will later go through the Olympic Development tryouts with the older age groups—tentatively planned for December '98.

Please contact Debbie Smith at 672-1793 or by e-mail at DebSmithNM@aol.com if you have any questions. You may also contact our district commissioner, Kris Hansen at (505) 982-8294.



## ⚽ HILL COORDINATOR NEWS

Dave Goggin

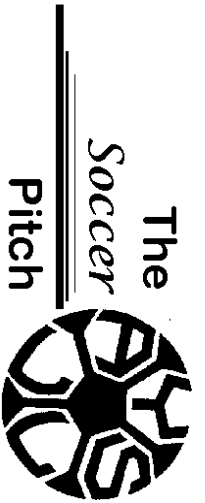
The season is off and running, practices have started, the league schedule will be well underway by the time you read this. This is my first fall season in this position, the first time I've been in from the beginning, and I have to say I'm really impressed with the numbers and commitment of the volunteers that make everything run. There are about 70 recreational teams, all with coaches, most with assistant coaches. Add in team parents, snack coordinators, and others and you've got quite an impressive number. There are more than 860 kids registered in the fall; there will be more in the spring.

Nonetheless we do have problems getting coaches, particularly in the older (U12 and up) leagues. Maybe it's because the kids are starting to know more than we do, maybe it's because some kids are tired of having the same coach—like their Dad—for 5 or 6 years. We had that situation in the U14 coed league. With two weeks to go, we didn't have any coaches. Finally two Dads jumped in, leaving us only one short. Then we had a nice thing happen. Tom Roelff, a former Los Alamos High soccer player working now at Los Alamos National Bank, a twenty-something with no kids of his own, volunteered to take the last team.

It'd be nice to find a way to get that to happen more often for that age group. When I was coaching, I had the privilege of having a couple of high schoolers help me out. Justin Baiardo was one, Chris (I forget his last name) was another. The kids really went for that. Plus they were "real" soccer players, I wasn't. If anyone has any tips for me on how to make that happen, I'd sure appreciate it.

Anyway, a big "Thanks!" to all the volunteers that make this league work. See you in the Spring.





October 1998  
Newsletter

**Los  
Alamos  
Youth  
Soccer  
League**

Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Los Alamos, NM  
Permit No. 154

⚽ Annual General Meeting

⚽ Complete Equip. Inventory

⚽ Registration News

⚽ Board Elections

⚽ LAYS L Calendar



Los Alamos Youth Soccer League  
P. O. Box 649  
Los Alamos, NM 87544