



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

August 27, 2002

Editor: Dick Eastman

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

WE HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SBPSL

At a big turnout for the monthly meeting on August 27, president **Larry Stern** reported the news (exciting to some, not so much for others) that we had a meeting with **Jesse Torres, Bob Duffy and Reza Danesh** of the SBPSL, the local men's league, in which they offered us their 2, 3 and 4 divisions.

The three divisions play a total of about 13 games every Sunday, and given two-men teams for the two higher divisions and one ref for division 4, would require 22 referees to commit to covering their games every week. This level is considered to be a considerable burden by some of your board members.

At the meeting with the SBPSL league officials, past longstanding problems with the league were hashed out: poorly maintained and marked fields; constant dissent by players and fans; ID card cheating; late start of games; mismatched uniforms; and tense relations between SSBRA and some league officials. It was admitted that some of these problems still exist, but there have been improvements over the years and they are continuing efforts to solve them. It was agreed that a dialogue between us would continue.

At the monthly meeting, Larry asked for comment from the floor and for a sense of how many members he could count on to do men's games. Out of the 35 present, approximately two-thirds put up their hands in favor of resuming some relationship with the SBPSL. Among those strongly in favor was **Harry Ross**, who admitted that he had joined another referee association especially to work PSL games.

Assignor **Bill Cook** said that in his opinion it would be very difficult to commit to the men's league, given our heavy involvement with the Coast Soccer League and the large number of members who do not make themselves available for games or who give back their assignments.

On other matters, Larry reminded everyone that the deadline for membership dues is August 31; that the association Web site committee has yet to meet but we

we are still hoping for a January site launch; that he wants to see more shirt orders for our group purchase; and that there has not been enough response to his request for photocopy proof of USSF certification.

He introduced one new member, **Garrett Stern** (one of his sons), and a guest, **Brandon Oster**, a youth referee who has applied to join.

He also passed on the word that the CSL has offered to pay the fees for upgrade assessments, *providing that the candidate passes!*

Larry distributed copies of USSF Memorandum 2002 covering Law changes and advice to referees, none of which differ from **Bill Mason's** preview last May.

COAST SOCCER LEAGUE PLANNING

Bill Cook described the results of a meeting with the CSL to plan the officiating of their games this fall. We have 16 fields so far, with the possibility of more to be added, and that some fields are new, replacing others that were given up.

The new season starts on September 7, with 30 games on Saturday and 34 on Sunday. He is working on the assignments. Given that only 45 to 50 members are available to him every weekend, he strongly doubts that he could also find another 22 for the men's league.

The J-League season starts on the 7th, with five games.

Bill mentioned that another association (not identified) tried to pounce on the new fields before they were identified as SSBRA's. He reported that the new referee assignment system has dropped the automatic e-mail notification to check your games: you must log on to www.coastsoccer.com/referees **yourself** to see what games you are offered, and you must click on **ACCEPT** to let him know you are taking those games. Otherwise, he might reassign them without telling you!

The same ID card rules apply as last year. The new FIFA rule forbidding sleeveless jerseys is not to be

enforced: you should merely note the presence of such jerseys on the game card.

Bill indicated that he has completed assigning the games at the Simi Valley and Capistrano tournaments for this weekend, as well as at the police tournament at Balboa Park in the Valley.

Bill once again made an impassioned plea to tell him when you're not available, *ahead of time*. Late givebacks continue to give him fits, requiring considerable last-minute name-juggling and doubling up by many members.

"GOODY" GIVEAWAY BY SECRETARY

Dick Eastman played Santa Claus early this year, giving each member present a shiny new black clipboard, courtesy of the SSBRA treasury. Those not at the August meeting may get theirs at the next meeting or possibly on the fields in the next few weeks.

He reported that he has e-mailed the current membership roster to everyone. Keep your copy on hand for reference, ride-pooling, etc., but *don't* give it away to anyone outside SSBRA: it's confidential to the organization *and* not for sale.

He reported that we currently have 83 on the list, with more coming in (and a few dropping out).

THE TREASURY ACCORDING TO TOM

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** handed out his financial summary showing \$2906 in the bank as of August 25.

He continues to deduct dues from tournament fees, and most are now paid up.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, AUGUST 20, 2002

- The meeting with SBPSL's Jesse Torres, Bob Duffy and Reza Danesh was discussed. Larry Stern, Dick Eastman and **Keith Gendler** attended for SSBRA. Past problems with the league and our ability to furnish referees were brought up. Polling the membership will be undertaken, as well as restricting our involvement to only one division instead of three. Keith stated a preference for 3-man teams.
- Web site technical committee should meet very soon to evaluate competing approaches/sources.
- Membership applications from **Kiyo Beverly** and Garrett Stern were approved. Kiyo's dues are waived (he is a youth referee).

- There has been poor response on the request for USSF badge verification.
- Discussed where to place the group purchase of uniforms.
- Suggestions for new door prizes were made. \$400 was budgeted.
- A couple of speaker candidates were identified; Keith to pursue.
- Keith reported that ticket prices at the new stadium in Carson will be radically higher than at the Rose Bowl (x4 ?!)
- Keith to prepare copies of the Law change memorandum for the next monthly.
- There is \$3200 in the treasury.
- Upcoming games: Mission Viejo (So. Cal. Blues), Simi Valley and Balboa Park (Police Games).
- To distribute clipboards at the next meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 27, 2002. .

- Approved application of Brandon Oster. Dues waived (youth referee).
- Will contact SBPSL with offer to take division 2.

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: *SEPTEMBER 24, 2002*

TIME: *7:30 P.M.*

PLACE: *REDONDO BCH. CITY HALL EMPL. LOUNGE, CARNELIAN AND BWAY.*

AGENDA: *MORE FALL PLANNING, ASSIGNMENTS AND TRAINING*