



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

September 24, 2002

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CSL SEASON STARTS WITH A BANG: 204 GAMES COVERED BY SSBRA TO DATE

Assignor **Bill Cook** bragged that we have covered 204 CSL games so far, 71 in the last weekend, and all with 3-man teams (except the U9s who get one ref). **Mike Benjamin** of the league pays attention to such things and rewards referee associations accordingly.

Bill took some of the meeting time to discuss the intricacies of filling out match forms: take only **one** set, usually from the home team, and check in all players of both teams on that form alone. Also, request each coach to fill out the ODP box for his opponent; if he doesn't want to, make a note of that refusal. No other information needs to be given to coaches, such as your badge number, etc. If a coach has a hankering to write down a narrative about any aspects of the game, invite him to do so **on his copy** of the match report.

Other item: **goal posts must be anchored**. Do not start a game until they are. Don't give the coach back his ID cards until the game is over, and only keep those for a serious problem, such as violence, etc., and write a supplemental report to the league about such incidents.

In answer to a question raised about how he allocates games, Bill explained that he has a ranking (updated frequently) of all members, and he assigns the best games (read: toughest) to those at the top of the ranking, going down from there to the easiest. His ranking for you, he claimed, is not a secret; if you want to know yours, ask him (you may not like the answer!). Among his criteria: age, experience, fitness, game control/management, attitude/demeanor during games, dependability/reliability, professional appearance, and seniority.

OTHER BUSINESS, FROM THE PRESIDENT

Larry Stern announced that it has been decided to keep the Good Sportsmanship program going, in which senior-age skilled players who show skill as well as sportsmanship are identified during the season, and an overall winner is rewarded with a money scholarship at the end of the season.

A plan to levy a reassignment fee of \$5 per game will be put into effect: Those who state their availability for assignments and then egregiously return them less than **10 days** before the date of a game will be stuck with this fee. There will be a maximum of \$15 per day. You must have a *very good* excuse to avoid the fee, and it's at the discretion of the board whether it's good enough.

This plan was discussed at length at the meeting, and the consensus was marginally in favor of its implementation. The fee will go to the assignor. His view is that he doesn't want the money, but if such a fee discourages the insidious practice of late cancellations, it will have done its intended job.

Bear in mind that if you don't send in a form or give some other indication that you're not available, then he will assume that you are!

Larry reported that the deal with the men's league fell through when our fee demands were rejected. The league apparently will go with the same ref group which handles its first division.

He indicated that we are in the process of arranging for the appearance of **Robert Evans** as speaker at the October meeting. **Evans** is co-author of the refereeing book "For the Good of the Game" and is an ex-Welshman, geologist, soccer player, coach, NASL and FIFA referee, and national referee instructor/assessor.

THE TREASURY

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** handed out his P&F statement showing a current cash balance of \$2876.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Secretary **Dick Eastman** reported to the 36 present that the membership stands at 82.

No corrections to the Flag & Whistle were offered (there rarely are any). He handed out amuch-prized black clipboards to those who did not get theirs at the last meeting, as well as SSBRA patches for use at non-affiliated games.

THE TRAINING

Director of training **Keith Gendler** conducted this month's tutorial session, handing out a 20-question soccer quiz, courtesy of the Referee magazine, and led a discussion of the correct answers as given in Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game. As usual, many in the audience had other ideas on what the correct answers should be. Keith urged that everyone should spend a few minutes a day rereading the Laws and the Advice to clear out misconceptions and refresh the little gray cells.

Some of the answers:

- A DFK is awarded for impeding when there is physical contact.
- *Attempting* to push, jump at, or charge an opponent is *not* a foul, but attempting to kick, trip or strike *is*.
- A penalty kick must be taken from the penalty spot even if it's under water.
- A dropped ball is correct after a stoppage for an injury, regardless of possession.
- There is no signal for offside, only an IFK signal.

A copy of the complete quiz can be obtained from Keith by anyone interested in testing themselves.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Rewarded for coming to the meeting, the following had their names pulled from the hat:

- **Steve McCall**, whistle and write-on cards
- **Brian O'Donnell**, socks
- **Kamel Guerbaoui**, flags
- **Paul Matlock**, Dodger tickets, thanks to Bill Cook, a Dodger Dog season ticketholder.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 16, 2002

Agenda Items and Decisions:

- Use of green cards for Good Sportsmanship program to continue.
- One no-show at Police Tournament deemed miscommunication, therefore no fine.
- No agreement with SBPSL; they wanted lower fees. SCSRA will pick up division 2.
- New member: **Steven Green**.
- Request from four members who used wrong fee table for J-League games for additional fees approved.
- Nine members without USSF certification identified. Their ranking will drop if they take no corrective action.
- Searching for new Member at Large. Volunteers welcome.
- Speaker for next month: Robert Evans (90% probability).
- \$2775 in treasury.
- Technology committee for Web site must meet ASAP.
- Group uniform purchase placed.
- Discussed and agreed on fees for returning game assignments after 10-day deadline. Will raise issue at next meeting.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: *OCTOBER 29, 2002*

TIME: *7:30 P.M.*

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

AGENDA: *SPEAKER: ROBERT EVANS; BUSINESS AND ASSIGNMENTS*