



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

January 28, 2003

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Pres.: L. Stern; VP: J. Ziegler; Sec.: R. Eastman; Treas.: T. Mallen; Assignor: W. Cook; Membership: K. Gendler; At Large: W. Howell, B. O'Donnell

STATE CUP THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT; DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN OUT

President **Larry Stern** and assignor **Bill Cook** had much to say about the nuts and bolts of doing the upcoming U11/13 games this weekend and next at Bakersfield: how assignments were made to accommodate the 5-game sets of the schedule, the rules for checking in the teams' players and coaches, badges to be worn, where we stay overnight, where we eat dinner, fees we will be paid, how expenses will be reimbursed, and the new Web-based SSBRA assigning system and its bugs.

At present our Web site system has the address:

<http://referee.podinteractive.com>

but obtaining our own domain name (ssbra.org?) is being considered, as is a home page that will carry useful information about the association, possibly to include this newsletter. Bill is working with the software writers to fix the bugs presently in the system.

Bill indicated that the National Cup is also on our plate following the present series of State Cup games.

He added that assignments for the new J-League season starting February 15 are in the works.

MEMBERS AT LARGE AT WORK ON GOALS DOCUMENT, NEW MEMBER PAMPHLET

Larry reported that members at large **Brian O'Donnell** and **Warren Howell** have been assigned (volunteered?) the separate jobs of creating a goals document for the organization (what is it we are trying to achieve in the long term), and an orientation pamphlet (what does a new member want and need to know coming in to SSBRA ---rules, procedures, what to do, where to go, who's who).

Brian read from his preliminary list of goals, which he plans to boil down to five or six succinct items, and Warren read a draft of a lengthy orientation pamphlet he is preparing. He asked the members present for suggestions of additional items. The members

obliged with many ideas, and he promised to consider them in his next version.

NEW MEMBER BILL MINDLIN WELCOMED BY ATTENDEES AT MEETING

The small group present listened attentively as **Bill Mindlin** gave a rundown of his background and officiating status. He has moved very recently from the Tucson, Arizona, area where he worked U19, adult, college, and high school games. He is at USSF state level grade 6, and also belongs to AIA (high school) and AISOA (college).

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS

Dick Eastman reported that the present membership stands at 89 (90 with Bill Mindlin), probably a record for SSBRA.

Tom Mallen gave his usual detailed explanation of what is happening in the financial sector, including his search for a bank to carry our funds and how much we have in the treasury. Our former bank changed its policies and fees, so we are now with California First Bank of California.

The treasury stands at \$2394.

TRAINING BY KEITH GENDLER ON OFFSIDE

With SSBRA business matters out of the way, the floor was turned over to training director **Keith Gendler** for an inspiring and entertaining session on offside, that most contentious of subjects in soccer refereeing.

Coyly describing his training material as derived from U11 girls and boys games, he proceeded to divide the group into two teams to compete in answering the dreaded question: flag up or down?

In fact, the video he projected on the wall was from past MLS games, and was shown at actual speed, slow motion, as well enhanced with next-to-last-defender lines drawn on the field for each offside case.

Each side alternately had to form a consensus on offside or not offside on each of a dozen or more situations.

Results of this competition were evenly matched and compared very favorably with the official decision given by the MLS instructors for each situation (although from time to time there was some internal disagreement within the respective teams).

A most telling point that came out of the exercise was that the AR **must** be in the correct position, i.e., across from the next to last defender, at the moment the pass is made in order to do an accurate job of assessing whether there is offside or not. In addition, the exact instant the pass is made can be crucial when the attacker starts to run toward goal at the same instant the defenders try to set an offside trap.

INCENTIVES TO ATTEND MONTHLIES

There were no door prizes for the meager crowd at the meeting (26 plus the new member, or only 30% of the total membership), but Larry handed out packet of game report forms to each attendee.

Vice president **Jon Ziegler** offered the suggestion that fees owed to members should only be distributed in cash and at the meetings, not by mailing of checks, in order to encourage better attendance. *[Could this be the ultimate solution?]*

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, JANUARY 15, 2003

Agenda Items and Decisions:

- Brian O'Donnell was welcomed as newest member of board.
- Larry to look into an unaffiliated tournament being organized by Crossroads.
- We have committed to an August tournament of the South Bay Soccer Club.
- The Web site should be up in 3 to 4 days.
- One fined member is off the availability list for non-payment; the other asked for a hearing.
- State Cup: Larry and Bill reported on the organizing meeting. Fees have been raised; all ages except U9 have 3 refs; you have to bring your '03 recertification form if you don't yet have the new badge; badge distribution is being speeded up; rules on coaches' ID cards; misconduct reports must include perps' names.

- Tom reported we are moving banks. Treasury is at \$2394.
- Looking for monthly meeting speakers. New CYSA-S officials might be source.
- Warren spoke for "casual members;" he feels they should not be dissed.
- Bill has Mission Viejo and State Cup schedules.
- Brian questions SSBRA goals. Should we poll membership?
- Project for Warren: orientation guide for new members.

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2003
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: REDONDO BCH. CITY HALL EMPL. LOUNGE, CARNELIAN & B'WAY.
AGENDA: TRAINING, BUSINESS AND ASSIGNMENTS