



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

February 25, 2003

Editor: Dick Eastman

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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

WE GET CSL SPRING LEAGUE GAMES; 'OLDERS' STATE CUP COMING UP NEXT

Assignor **Bill Cook** covered the subject of CSL's spring league, for which he is assigning one week at a time due to last-minute changes in schedule, fields, teams and coaches. The spring league's function is to give the kids some early game practice. No standings are kept.

Bill indicated that the previous season's league manual is to be used for reference. Anyone without a copy is to contact him. We have six fields to cover: Nansen, Yukon, Magruder, Roger Anderson, Manhattan Village and Miraleste. He asked that you double-check your assignments for late changes.

State Cup games for the older divisions are upcoming in early April. Bill made a pitch for new faces to sign up for these games. The games are high quality, the pay is good, referees get together for dinners, and accommodations are free. The only negative aspect: distance from LA, but carpooling is encouraged.

On a separate matter, he stated that the J-League games are all at Trident in Orange county, Carr not being available. For directions to Trident, get in touch with him.

MEMBERS AT LARGE HOWELL AND O'DONNELL GIVE REPORT ON PROGRESS

Members at large **Brian O'Donnell** and **Warren Howell** reported on the progress they have each made on their separate assignments: Brian to generate a set of goals for the association and Warren to write an orientation pamphlet for new members.

Brian described how the goals he is coming up with as a result of discussions with the membership and the board are shaping up as an extension of the bylaws section on the association's purposes, namely:

- a high level of officiating;
- recruiting, training and evaluating referees;
- coordinating assignments;

- standardizing interpretation and application of the Laws;
- and promoting the game in the community by a better understanding of the Laws.

Brian listed a number of goals to implement these official purposes and asked for responses to an e-mail he sent out. Of the rather meager response (17, or less than 20% of the membership), assessments received the most votes for first choice (7); increased membership was favored by 4; 3 favored upgrade of at least 5% of the membership; and one vote was received for reducing the assignment turnback rate and receiving pay on the field rather than later.

There were some worthy write-in suggestions: to limit games to 3 per day per referee; to increase the quality of refereeing opportunities; to increase minority, female and youth membership; and to improve the physical fitness of the membership.

For his part, Warren read, verbatim, the text of his orientation document. It is now in the hands of the secretary for editing, printing and distribution.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS

Dick Eastman gave the current membership as 90; however, a few have dropped out of active status.

Tom Mallen reported that the decision to change banks (to California First) has been rescinded. The bank's conditions and fees were not to his liking. Instead, a possible move to the TRW Credit Union is in the works.

The treasury stands at \$1260.

GUESTS/PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Dan Ayala and **Paul McIntyre** introduced themselves and described their refereeing backgrounds. Dan is highly experienced, having some 3000+ games under his belt; Paul is the opposite. He has been a player for a long time but has only some 17 high school games in his portfolio.

Both later submitted their applications and were accepted for membership.

MORE TRAINING BY KEITH GENDLER

Training director **Keith Gendler** took over the meeting with another of his instructional films, this time on the subject of foul play. The objective was to show a foul (maybe) being committed, as viewed from a distance, and have the membership decide whether it was indeed a foul, and whether it was cautionable or worse.

The group was divided into two 'teams,' The Odds and The Evens, who alternately looked at a World Cup '94 incident and voted. Following each viewing, the incident was repeated from up close and in slow motion, and then the official USSR verdict was given.

Surprisingly, some actions deemed no misconduct at all were considered cautionable or even serious foul play on second thought. Of the 10 incidents for each group, The Odds group got only 4 1/2 right and The Evens 5. Not a good showing by SSBRA.

A major complaint by both teams in the competition was that the incidents were not viewed from the center referee's perspective but from high up in the stands (from where **Tommy Smythe** makes his pronouncements). In addition, the actual referee call in many cases differed from the USSF's, which was usually stricter than the center referee's during the game.

ROBELOTTO MAKES ANNUAL WATTS PLEA

Joe Robelotto distributed his letter asking for volunteers to officiate at the annual Los Angeles Summer Games for boys and girls high school teams, this year to be held on June 14, 15, 21 and 22.

In return for doing these games, refs get T shirts, caps, lunch and tickets to the L.A. Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club. Anyone capable of handling these U17 matches, whether high school rated or not, is welcome.

His letter and form availability sheet will be transmitted separately by e-mail.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Agenda Items and Decisions:

- Next State Cup games are February 15/16 in Lancaster. Olders are in March.
- New member pamphlet discussed. Publish as is.
- Need for goals document discussed. To conduct poll. Goals should reinforce bylaws purposes statement.
- Funds staying at Washington Mutual for now.
- Present cash of \$2065 heading to < \$1000 before renewal date of 1 July.
- Keith sure we will have a training session for the next monthly meeting.

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: MARCH 25, 2003

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: REDONDO BCH. CITY
HALL EMPL. LOUNGE,
CARNELIAN & B'WAY.

AGENDA: TRAINING, BUSINESS,
ASSIGNMENTS AND
DOOR PRIZES.