



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

January 31, 2005

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SSBRA MEMBERSHIP LEFT IN DARK BY LOCKOUT; REFEREES ADVISED TO WEAR COATS AND TIES

Our long-time gathering place in Redondo Beach was unexpectedly locked when our Members started arriving for the monthly meeting in January, leaving it up to **Jon Ziegler** and **Bill Cook** to hunt down the key, which they did in fairly short order so that the 44 Members present could file in out of the dark and cold, and get on with business. Jon quickly called the meeting to order once we had got settled, as **Keith Gendler** was unable to attend. The first item on the agenda was the announcement that **Heidi Garlick** (who also sometimes uses the last name of **Peters**) had agreed to become the new Board Member in charge of training. She replaces Keith, who moved over to the post of President after our last election, and received an enthusiastic welcome. Jon also informed the gathering that the search for a bigger meeting room continues. He also reported later on that there would be no college scholarship given this year (our "green card" program) due to problems with getting an adequate number of nominations, which would be addressed for the next year.

Moving along quickly, the floor was turned over to Treasurer **Tom Mallen**, who reported that the financial state of our Association remains in good order, with \$3647 in the Bank. Tom also passed out a few checks to those who were owed and present, which were well-received as always, and then rapidly turned things back over to Jon. The Vice-President then asked **Warren Howell** for the Secretary's report, no doubt hoping that it likewise would be done expeditiously. Alas, Warren failed to take Tom's good example to heart, and droned on for a bit. He mentioned that, with the assistance of past-Secretary **Dick Eastman**, he had been in contact with a vendor to

find out about ordering some more SSBRA referee badges, as the inventory is almost depleted. Cost, as always, is the first consideration, and Warren reported that he was trying to get the new badges to match the old ones exactly, since no improvements were needed and so that old ones would not need to be replaced with a new design. The new badges will likewise have velcro attached, which Jon stated for the record would not be a problem in his case as he already has an old badge with the velcro reversed. Warren then went on about USSF registration for year 2005 - only 5 remain who have not renewed from 2004 (you know who you are), while others have had their levels upgraded or cross-registered from AYSO for the first time. In addition, a couple of Members have went to emeritus status, all of which appears on the latest version of the 122 Member roster. Finally, Warren talked about the Flag and Whistle in general, and how it is broken into a minutes of the meetings and news part, then a section containing any training materials, and finally a feature articles or letters to the editor piece. Since the F&W editor has not actually received a letter yet, Warren stated that he planned on continuing his practice of writing them to himself and publishing the results as he saw fit.

Moving on to more interesting topics, our Membership Director **Brian O'Donnell** then introduced our newest Member **Scott Tomlinson**, and prospective Members **Chris Ricciardi** and **Mimmo Orlando**, who were greeted warmly.

Then it was the turn of the assignor, and Bill started imparting information about the upcoming State Cup in Bakersfield and Lancaster. He reminded us that running clocks are to be used - start and end the games on time, whether the teams are ready or not, unless paramedics are summoned. Plan on a 1 ½ hour trip to Lancaster and 2 ½ hours to Bakersfield, with maybe even more time needed for traffic delays. Hotel rooms are available on both Friday and Saturday nights in Bakersfield, but not in Lancaster. Make sure that the roster has the red check-in stamp on it - if it does not, do not accept it and have the teams get the problem fixed. Likewise, the referees are required to check-in before the start of their first match of the day at each site. For State Cup only (so far), the fee has been raised to \$1.20 a minute, collectable in cash on the field - please note that some of the teams might not be aware of this and will need to be informed when the time comes (editor's note; for U11/12 matches, it seems to work out to \$36 a team and a split of 28/22/22). Bill reported that hats are now allowed, and asked that referees get the score right on the game cards, give the ID cards back to the teams at the end of the match and bring shirts in all four colors (long sleeves will probably be needed due to the cold).

Heidi then had a turn, and instructed us on proper and better incident reporting, with advice that can be applied to any type of game we might find ourselves doing. The keys to a game report, which is almost like a legal document, is to be brief and accurate with all the needed details. These are who did it, what they did, the time they did it, and perhaps the score when it happened. Leave in only the facts, and leave out your opinions and other unimportant comments. It is a good idea to write down all the facts before you leave the field for the day, and if you have to go to a hearing, bring all of your written materials, wear proper business attire in order to make a good impression, and possibly preface your remarks with a phrase such as "...to the best of my recollection...". Forms are available on both the high school and SSBRA web-sites.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2004

- a Member was fined and suspended for a no-show
- a membership application was rejected
- the SBSPL and issues thereof were discussed
- another Member was issued a suspended fine

- a verbal threat against a referee was reviewed
- Heidi was proposed as a candidate for training director
- putting the roster online was discussed
- the grades, renewal and accuracy of our Members USSF registration was reviewed
- some possible bylaw changes were put before the Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 17, 2005

- Heidi has joined the Board
- Bill went to the State Cup meeting, rates raised
- Spring league was discussed
- J-league going well
- 3000+ games assigned in year 2004
- \$3595 in the bank
- looking into web-site enhancements
- rating committee to meet later
- nothing to report on finding a new meeting room
- decided to form a committee to invent a process to update the bylaws
- ideas on how to mentor new Members were gone over
- roll-over green card scholarship till new year due to lack of nominations
- Keith reported on a CYSA hearing he participated in by phone; the league supported the referee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 25, 2005

- applications for Membership were approved for **Dan Damian**, Chris Ricarridi and Mimmo Orlando
- an issue concerning one of our referees and SBPSL was discussed at length, and the Board (Bill) will write a response

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2005, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE REDONDO BEACH CITY HALL EMPLOYEES LOUNGE, CARNELIAN AND BROADWAY. AGENDA T.B.D.

Referee has senior moment, League Cup BU15/GU17, CSUDH. (W. Howell)

Awhile back, after two J-league games in the morning in Anaheim, I went over to CSUDH for a 3-game set of CSL League Cup matches. Larry Stern was to be the referee for the first match, I was the referee for the second,

and Heidi Garlick-Wilson-Peters-Garlick-etc. was to do the third. I was nervous at the start of the day, not only because a full schedule like this would test my fitness, but because of my companions. Larry at the time was the Chairman of the Ratings Committee of SSBRA and was in the middle of creating new rankings for all SSBRA referees, while Heidi was serving as the all-powerful President of the High School group. Since these are the only two groups that I do games for, I knew that my future could hinge on my performance that day.

In the first game, in order to avoid a hopelessly muddy field on one side, Larry decided to run a reverse diagonal, and his game went well. Then it was my turn, and he expected me to run a reverse also. However, I declined to do so, as I do not do reverses well, a fact I reminded him of and that he could clearly remember, as he was present the last time I attempted it (with disastrous results) two years ago at UCLA. Since he was the one that would now have to run in the mud (Heidi wisely having claimed the dry side of the field), he was not a happy camper to start the match, and got even grumpier as the game wore on and his shoes got dirtier. Even so, things went along without incident well into the second half. About half way through the half, there was play in front of Heidi, with a number of players actively contesting for the ball in crowded conditions. I spied an infraction, and whistled for an DFK for team "A". Heidi signaled me instantly that she had a problem and wanted me to come over and talk things over. Upon doing so, she told me that yes, I had indeed correctly seen a foul, but I was screened from and missed another foul that took place just before that one. She felt the first foul is the one we should go with, and the restart should be a DFK for team "B". Since I wanted to be sure that I got the call right, I went over it again with her, and we agreed that I would restart with a DFG for team "B". Going back on the field, I made my signal, and restarted with a DFK for team "A" (no, that is not a typo). Player "B1" erupted with a non-stop litany of complaints, as play continued. Since he seemed sincere, and was certainly persistent, I started to wonder if there was anything to his position that the DFK was incorrect. Though play went on, I finally took a moment to glance Heidi's way, and noticed that she was amused about something or other; well, not to put too fine a point on it, she was laughing her ass off. Realizing that something was wrong, when play finally stopped I ran over to her to have a chat. Still chuckling, she confirmed my fears about the bad restart. Turning to the still-complaining player "B1", I confessed that I had indeed screwed-up, which put him into a stunned silence, possibly because he had never seen a referee make a mistake before. Fortunately the call had no effect on the game, which ended soon after without further incident. Larry's mood went from foul to worse, as Heidi went over right after the match and told him the story of the wrong-way restart, with the usual embellishments. His humor did not improve even when Heidi made certain that I would be running through the mud in the final match of the afternoon, which went off without incident. However, at the end of the day it remained an open question as to whether I would ever referee in this town again.