



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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HEIDI "HONEY" GARLICK ADMITS TO JOKING WITH COACHES; LEE JORDAN CALLED USELESS AS AN A.R., WHILE DICK EASTMAN VOICES A SUGGESTION FOR ALL OF THOSE WITHIN EARSHOT

It was a dark and stormy night.....but not too stormy and dark for a small number of SSBRA Members (35 actually) to attend the February meeting. For this they were rewarded with plenty of seating and an extended training session, with an expanded opportunity for discussion, friendly banter and even repartee.

Assignor **Bill Cook** lead off with his report that, as we are aware, the last couple of weeks saw nothing but rainouts. He also only had games for the upcoming week-end for the two Men's leagues to assign so far (editor's note; later that evening Bill was asked to fill State Cup spots at 4 fields in Lancaster for Sunday, and set immediately to that task). As always, keep your availability current, and let Bill know of any special requests or circumstances. Treasurer **Tom Mallen** also reported that the Association's finances were in fine shape, with \$3655.08 in the kitty.

Secretary **Warren Howell** then started talking, and he reported that the new supply of SSBRA badges had been manufactured and were awaiting the conclusion of the Chinese New Year festivities to be shipped to this country. Talking directly with the audience, Warren was assured that the F&W monthly notifications were going out OK and that the newsletter could be opened without problems by all those present. **Keith Gendler** and Warren encouraged the writing of articles and letters to the editor. Warren explained that the Association is

still using multiple Member lists, and asked for understanding if changes to Member information did not get transferred to all the lists the first time. He also pointed out that the use of computer technology (e-mail, assigning systems, availability system and website) resulted in virtually no expensive paper letters needing to be sent out every month, causing both better service to our Members and reduced paper/postage costs. Sensing that those present were becoming bored with all this, Keith directed that Director of Training **Heidi Garlick** take over in order to go on to more interesting topics.

This she did admirably, choosing “dealing with dissenting coaches” as her first topic of the evening. Heidi characterized coaches in men’s-type leagues especially as generally grouchy, and asked the audience for suggestions as how they should be handled. **Gabriel Goldsman, Dick Eastman** and **George Heggie** offered their opinions and experiences, while Heidi mentioned the time(s) when the coaches have called her “honey”(!). Rather than banishing the miscreants to the parking lot immediately, Heidi says she tries to joke with them, and get things back on an even keel. Handling this is more art than science, and requires that we use our people management skills for each situation, letting the coaches be “human”. Carding coaches only seems to make them more excited, not less, so if you have to card them a “sting-and-run” might be in order; **Jon Ziegler** suggested letting them get in the last word (winning the debate) and walking away. Keith recommended starting a dialogue with BOTH coaches before the game even starts in order to head-off trouble later.

In another training exercise, Bill Cook offered a scenario he recently witnessed as a spectator at a match. Player “A1” was throwing in the ball, with player “B1” crowding him near the sideline. Sure enough, in the same motion as the throw-in, “A1” kept going into “B1,” causing a facial cut on “B1”, red card for “A1,” and other unpleasantness. The A.R.s (one of whom was our own **Lee Jordan**) were too far away to be of any use, while the referee was only about 2 yards away. The question posed was, “what should the referee have done before the throw-in”? A lively debate ensued, with George Heggie being especially generous in sharing his knowledge and long experience with the other Members, who were equally generous in their responses to his observations. After awhile it seemed that there were three main lines of thought: “the referee should do nothing since no Laws have been broken,” “the referee should be talking quietly to the players to head-off problems,” and “loudly threaten ‘B1’ with a yellow card if he does not back-off immediately.” Again, this is more art than science, and all those present no doubt benefited from the discussion.

As a group effort of Heidi, **Brian O’Donnell** and **Rick Roberts**, a professionally made video “Making the Offside Call” was shown, using games of the 1999 Women’s World Cup to illustrate various scenarios. The lesson to be learned is that, after all of the Laws have been applied, it still many times comes down to the opinion of the referee. Dick Eastman shared a sensible and helpful suggestion with those present after the video was shown (and was not mentioned therein) that, since seeing the second to last defender and the ball when it is kicked at the same time is often not possible, the sound of the kick can be used to help make your judgment, when it can be heard. Not surprisingly, even this perfectly correct and practical solution triggered comments from those present, though in the end all agreed with Dick’s idea.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 16, 2004

- the fee for a Board-requested assessment was approved for payment
- discussed the latest events of the SBPSL 3 league
- fined a Member for a no-show. Suspended the fine and placed the Member on probation for one year because

of the circumstances

- Tom reported \$3667 in the bank
- Bill reported challenges covering games in Bakersfield because of inaccurate Member availability, had to give one field back (all games were later canceled due to rain). We continue to have problems with reported Member availability versus accepted games.
- we are to proceed with the SSBRA badge purchase
- Larry reported that the rating committee would re-convene after the high school season was completed
- Two possible proposals for bylaw changes were briefly discussed
- Brian would bring a training film to the next monthly meeting
- Jon continues the search for a bigger, free room in a good location for the monthly meetings. He is studying the roster to get an idea as to where most Members live in order to determine a good/better location.
- Heidi is planning her training presentation for the next meeting

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY MARCH 29, 2005, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE REDONDO BEACH CITY HALL EMPLOYEES LOUNGE, CARNELIAN AND BROADWAY. AGENDA T.B.D.

From the current issue of Referee magazine

“.....you are only as good as your next call.”

“Misplaced Focus,” as told by Dick Lujan

A BU8 match was taking place at a field right next to an Army air base in Arizona. It was the Big Game, and the players were playing at a furious pace, with the parents and coaches in full cry on the sidelines - seldom has one seen more action and intensity than was on display that day. Suddenly from out of the south an entire squadron of Army attack helicopters appeared, returning to the base after maneuvers. Spying the game in progress, the lead pilot directed the squadron to buzz the soccer game, which they did, coming in low, fast, loud and hard directly above the game without warning. It was an awe-inspiring, once-in-a-lifetime sight. The game and all thoughts of soccer ceased, as everyone turned to gaze at the spectacle. Everyone that is except for “Johnnie” on team “A”, who took possession of the ball while everyone else’s attention was skyward and dribbled toward the goal, easily putting it in the back of the net untouched. Beside himself with joy, Johnnie ran over to his best friend and teammate “Timmy” and screamed in his face, “I SCORED A GOAL !!!” Looking at him with a baleful eye, Timmy replied, “yeah, but you missed the helicopters.”