



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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www.ssbra.org

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BIG CHANGE TAKES EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AT SSBRA; MEETING PLAN GOES HAYWIRE; STU STUMBLES

Because of a special guest speaker **Jon Ziegler**, chairing the March meeting in the place of **Keith Gendler**, started off by saying he wanted to go through the regular business quickly so we could get to more interesting stuff. We were not particularly successful in this, as, while Jon was relating the recent experiences of SSBRA with Members being not available and/or inaccurate in their availability, **Ed McClure** rose to say he did not like Members being “castrated (!)” by Jon’s words. This caused a bit of an uproar, with a number of Members, including **Steve Brandon**, also taking the opportunity to express their views. When order was restored, it was generally agreed that (1) Members should get their availability in as soon as possible, (2) check only the “ANY VENUE” box on the availability screen and e-mail **Bill Cook** separately if you have any special requests, (3) update your availability in a timely manner if it changes, (4) accept the games you get ASAP, and (5) if you want more games later in the week let Bill know as he often has last minutes openings. Since Bill accepts fields based on the initial availability he gets from the Members in an attempt to get everyone games who wants them for the upcoming week-end, all of this has a large impact on the games we take and can cover, and on all of the Members.

In brief remarks, **Warren Howell** stated that the SSBRA badges had arrived safely, and **Penny Rehm** would be at the September meeting to administer the 2006 USSF tests and collect the forms and checks. Several of said

badges were claimed by those present, as were a number of paper copies of the current roster.

Tom Mallen then took the floor and announced that there is \$2957 in the bank, taking the opportunity to put in a dig at Warren for having to pay for the badges. Always one to try to enhance his popularity, he then passed out some checks from the first week-end of the Nike tournament, which did exactly that.

Next up was **Lee Jordan**, who encouraged all those present to check-out the updated SSBRA.org website and all of the new items therein. One of those was that, effective in April and thereafter, SSBRA will no longer be having it's monthly meetings in the Redondo Beach City employees lounge. Since we have obviously outgrown that facility, through Jon's efforts we will from now on be meeting in the cafeteria of North Torrance High School at Yukon and 182nd St.

Finally it was time to get to the main event of the evening. **Heidi Garlich** had arranged for **Mr. Brian Boswell** to speak to us, and introduced him as the current coach of Ajax Woman's team of the WPSL (it is the top level of woman's soccer in California), a holder of both a USSF and English F.A. National Coaching license, the Coaching Director for Sportsklubben Fram Youth Soccer and a staff coach for California South Soccer Association. He has been coaching in the South Bay since 1977, and was well-prepared to give a different view of the game, that from the perceptive of the coaches.

He started in by saying that, though the players could probably get along without coaches, without the refs there would be no game. Though he feels that the coaches are better than in the past, there are also more problems caused by the money involved in getting a team on the field, which raises the parents expectations accordingly. Some of them feel that they are paying to get results, and the games becomes, seemingly, "life-or-death." Parents do not know more about the game than in the past, but are very willing to take on the bad attitudes of coaches if given the chance. Therefore Brian would like to see referees and coaches working together as a team to keep the game under control. He stated that referees are "special" folks (which generated a number of comments from various Members, some of which were rather amusing), that need to develop a sense of the subtle points of the game - learn to hold your whistle and see what develops, and treat girls' and boys' games the same (Brian claimed that girls' games are called too tight). The need for referees continues to expand faster than the supply, so it is a good idea to try to recruit younger college-age folks as referees, though often times people that age are not interested for a variety of reasons. The referees that do the games should work together and try to be unnoticed (unlike a particular SSBRA Member he named, who tends to be the center of attention!). He would like to see referees do a better job of keeping up with play, especially the younger ones, though he realizes that referees are often assigned multiple, tiring games in a day. Finally, the game should be fun for everyone.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 23, 2004

- badges were approved
- Bob Hildreth to be granted access to SSBRA archival materials for historical research
- 2 applications for membership were accepted
- the status of our youth referees would be examined in July as to their fees being waived; they must be under the age of 18 on 7/1/2005 or else be subject to the full membership fee
- meeting location to be changed to North High cafeteria starting in April
- Tom reported \$2885 in the bank

- J-league no show fee discussed
- Brian Boswell will be the next guest speaker
- Lee given go-ahead to put the roster online with password restrictions
- application form changes discussed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 29, 2005

- application for membership of Wally Senff approved
- next Board meeting to be at Larry's house, tentatively on 4/18
- Secretary to write a letter to the City Clerk of Redondo Beach giving back the meeting room

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY APRIL 26, 2005, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE CAFETERIA OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182ND ST. - NOTE THE PERMANENT CHANGE IN LOCATION. AGENDA T.B.D.

Thought of the Month; You get good judgment from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment.

Letter to the Editor (yes!)

Warren,

I have a little tidbit which happened last Sunday up at Lancaster.

The Winter clan was on Field 17. Michael was in the middle and Eric and I were dutiful AR's. The weather was good but a little morning chill was in the air. The field was very slick because of the dew. Up until late in the first half all was well. Then disaster struck. As I was sidestepping down the line my feet slipped and I went Head over Heels on my "Bum." Apparently a shot was then taken and missed for a Goal Kick. (I did not see it, from my positioning at the moment all I could see were a blue sky with a couple of clouds). Needless to say, I hurried to get in position and pointed for a goal kick, after observing the Center pointing for one. Wondering how many witnesses there were to my "unique" method of positioning, I was blessed that it appeared not many. The center then came over to talk to me. My vertically challenged son then said: "I must have not been paying attention, for I missed the number of the guy who fouled you." Needless to say I got caught and it was especially embarrassing being dissed by your own son. Afterwards it was noted by my sons that I was left speechless and without a witty retort for the first time that they could remember. Well I decided that at half time I would make lemonade out of lemons and get even with at least one of my sons. At the half I approached my son Eric and started to chew him out for not being a good AR, since I did not see him fall down, "Mirroring His

Partner's Call (Fall)." His response was that he was trained to make calls on his feet, not sitting down, and that USSF would not be happy with the new style of reffing. A double whammy from my kids. It must be old age is creeping up on me. However, I have a lot of fun reffing with my kids. They will be leaving the nest soon, and I cherish every moment with them, even while some coach is tearing them up. You should try it some time. It is a very fulfilling feeling. Just ask Larry Stern or Ed Beverly. In closing, my kids enjoy reffing with the "old" man as well, however, they wish Bill would schedule them with somebody good sometimes so they don't have to be "pigeonholed" with an old used up codger.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Winter

Shocking true story ! Coach calls Referee a Bad Name !!

It was the BU13 Nike tournament final, a Big Game if there ever was one, and the 3-man SSBRA officiating crew was on hand to insure a fair match. Team "A" was both excellent and had overly emotional coaches and parents, while Team "B" was a super team that clearly dominated the game. Ahead 1-0 early in the first half, attacking player "B1" was tripped and brought down in the penalty area while dribbling the ball, and the Referee called a penalty kick. Coach "A" almost had a stroke, and begged the Referee to change the call, not because it was wrong but because it would ruin the game for his team, and because the tripped player was not going directly to the goal at the time anyway. The heartless Referee ignored his pleas, and the score became 2-0. For the rest of the game coach "A" continued his complaints about the call, and most of the other calls too. Finally the game ended in a 3-0 victory for team "B". While exiting the field after the final whistle, A.R. **Gabriel Goldsman** noticed coach "A" approaching at a fast clip, and advised the Referee to keep going while he and A.R. **Larry Stern** dealt with him. Coach "A" started in again about the first-half penalty kick to Gabriel and Larry, even though over an hour had since passed. Quickly noting that he was getting little sympathy for his position from the two A.R.'s, he turned to the retreating Referee, pointed a finger in his direction and yelled at the top of his lungs "That was NOT a penalty kick!.....you.....you.....BLUTO !!" Stunned for once into speechlessness, the referee team retired from the pitch without another word.

If you want to know the secret identity of Referee Bluto, send an e-mail to secretary@ssbra.org and it will be revealed to you in confidence.