



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

May 31, 2005

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www.ssbra.org

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OVERWHELMING TURNOUT FOR AGM AND ELECTIONS; NEVER BEFORE SEEN NEW FEATURE IN THIS ISSUE OF THE FLAG AND WHISTLE; LARGE GROUP OF REFEREES CAUGHT DRINKING BEER IN PUBLIC

Secretary **Warren Howell**, making a count of the large number of Members in attendance, announced to President **Keith Gendler** that he was declaring a quorum was present and that the Annual General Meeting could get underway on May 31, 2005 at the new permanent meeting place in the library of North Torrance High School. In fact, ultimately 64 current Members were present, in addition to seven prospective new Members, making this the largest prospective/member-only meeting in SSBRA history. In all, ten applications were presented to the Board for consideration at the meeting, which, with the large numbers in the audience (for which there was ample room due to the spaciousness of the new meeting place), made for a busy evening. Those prospective new Members are **Mel Webster, Gholamreza Tabatabaei, Adam Rose, Steven M. Brandon, Andrew Brandon, Pio Visaya, Allan Dawson, Lee Rawles, Michael Doherty, and Arno Liechti**, whose applications will be considered as the first agenda item at the next Board meeting.

Getting down to business, Keith asked Treasurer **Tom Mallen** if he had anything to say. As expected, he did, telling all of those there of the \$2771 in the bank, making some remarks about the amount and SSBRA finances in general, and passing out a couple of miscellaneous State Cup forfeit checks. These remarks included the possible purchase of a projector for training purposes, and the deferral of this year's scholarship due to an insufficient number of nominations.

Keith then turned the meeting over to Warren, but not before encouraging a round of applause for the latest issues of the Flag and Whistle. This surprised Warren into momentary silence, which in itself likewise must have surprised a number of the Members. Recovering quickly, Warren announced that he wanted to talk about SSBRA yearly dues, and the Members politely listened to him drone for awhile on that subject. The yearly fee is due on July 1st of the year, with some leeway being given till the CSL season starts in September. Tom will deduct the fee from any checks you get from SSBRA for tournaments worked in June, July or August, unless you tell him otherwise and make a different arrangement. There are currently five lifetime Members on the roster that have had their fees waived. In addition, Members who have taken advantage of the New Member Incentive program (as verified by Tom) will have their fee waived for the year. Also, new Members that joined and paid their year dues for the first time in January through June 2005 are not required to pay again for the following year, per Association policy. Youth Members, who must be less than 18 years of age on July 1, 2005, likewise are not required to pay. Warren stated that, via e-mail, he would be asking those currently claiming youth status to re-certify the same for the upcoming year, or, lacking both certification and payment, they would be dropped from the roster. Everyone else owes SSBRA \$50 to continue their membership, except for **George Heggie**, who has chosen to pay a surcharge due to his lack of an e-mail address. On an unrelated subject, an anonymous Member asked Warren to mention to the group that offering to help pay for gas expenses to the driver when car-pooling to matches is the proper, and usually expected, thing to do. In addition Warren, reaching into his mysterious Bag of Wonders, pulled-out an ample supply of paper rosters for the Members, listing 133 names. At least he thought it was an ample supply, but they were gone in an instant, or so it seemed, and Warren made a mental note to search eBay later to determine if perhaps they were being auctioned-off. As always, anyone wanting a paper roster mailed to them, or a soft copy, can get one by contacting him directly (secretary@ssbra.org or 310-559-5677).

Taking back the floor, Keith reminded everyone that Penny Rehm was coming to the September meeting to administer the USSF yearly exam, and would be expecting a higher fee than in years past. He also mentioned that SSBRA would be meeting in June, but not July. There was a discussion of some badly written game reports that had been received lately. New faces present were introduced, including three members of the Brandon clan. **Steve Brandon**, showing understandable pride, made a short speech of introduction, explaining how pleased he was to have his three sons sign-up. The Members present held none of this against the young Brandons however, and give them, and the other newcomers, a warm SSBRA welcome. Keith then made some other remarks, but, alas, the Secretary's attention wandered, and they went un-recorded. The President was then ready to go to the elections, but **Bill Cook** insisted on having a say first and, after a brief discussion, Keith relented and turned the floor over to our assignor.

Bill plunged right in, informing the gathering that there were no known CSL/SSBRA tournaments in June, but there might be on the July 4th week-end. For all tournament (and non-tournament) games, he recommended that each of those present get a copy of the roster for car-pooling purposes. The Watts high school games were still short of referees, and Bill encouraged everyone to notify **Joe Robolotto** (gesep@aol.com) if you want to help out (and get a waiver for the high school physical next season). Bill reported that the last two week-end tournaments went quite well. The J-league is probably done for the season, with the ANA tournament coming up the next two week-ends. SSBRA was asked to cover some high-level games in Lancaster, and did a good job, which shows the high regard we are held in, and the good chances we have of getting similar assignments in the future.

At that point elections were held, with **Lee Jordan** and **Heidi Garlick** helping Warren out, as they thought he

was too slow passing out the ballots. For vice-President, incumbent **Jon Ziegler** ran against **Ed McClure**. After the votes were counted, Keith declared Ed the winner of the next two year term starting July 1st. For Treasurer, incumbent Tom Mallen ran against **Stewart Winter**. After the votes were tallied, Tom was declared the winner for another two year term.

The meeting was then moved to a local eatery wherein food and (adult) beverages were served, compliments of the SSBRA Treasury. Tom Mallen spent most of the evening fretting about the cost, but in fact the final bill was quite reasonable and well within budget. Food and drink were distributed efficiently and profusely throughout the evening, with a number of Members volunteering to help pass out edibles and adult beverages to the rest of the Members, so that all would be assured of getting all they wanted in a timely manner. A good time was had by all, with at least one Member seen standing on a chair shouting at the top of his voice at the rest of the gathering. Rumor had it that tall tales were told, boisterous behavior was observed, and Members were seen dancing on table tops. None of this will be confirmed here however, as it is the official policy of SSBRA that what happens in Pizza Hut, stays in Pizza Hut.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 16, 2005

- The Board met with a Member at his request so he could give his side of the story regarding actions that lead to his suspension. Afterwards, the Board voted unanimously to stick with the original decision.
- Warren was instructed to create ballots for the AGM elections, with the incumbent listed first.
- Tom stated there was \$2870 in the bank, and some State Cup money had arrived that would be passed on to the membership.
- An honorarium check, not issued previously due to an oversight, was written by Tom during the meeting for quick delivery.
- Warren outlined and got approval from the Board to talk about dues at the AGM.
- Bill said that we were all covered for the next week-end. Memorial Day games are coming up, and Lee would be the back-up assignor as needed.
- All is well lately with the SBPSL
- Keith and Warren would agree on the wording of an e-mail to certain Members about J-league rainouts.
- Heidi liked the Law change memo, and plans to use it at the next training session, in June. A possible guest speaker for the Fall was suggested, as was the idea of creating a training plan for the June-October meetings.
- Two A.R.'s would be asked for a report of a problem Lancaster game for the Board's review.
- It was decided that Heidi would run a mentor program. A committee is to be formed, that will shape the program etc.
- The status of another local referee group, and the impact their situation might have on SSBRA, was talked about at some length.
- a suspended fine was issued to a Member for missing a game, because he had a valid excuse

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182ND ST. - NOTE THE PERMANENT CHANGE IN LOCATION. AGENDA TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, TRAINING, ETC.

From Referee Magazine: If you take a game, you owe it to all involved to give it your best effort. The saying "The game you're working is the most important game in the world that day to those players" is true. It should be true for officials as well.

Letters:

By Susan Kuczka (submitted by Keith Gendler)
Tribune staff reporter
May 20, 2005, 4:30 PM CDT

The Vernon Hills family of a 6-year-old boy who died after a portable metal soccer goal fell on him has agreed to a \$2.25 million settlement with the Greater Libertyville Soccer Association, the family's attorney said today.....Zachary, a first grader at Option Elementary School, Vernon Hills, died of cardiac arrest after the nearly 200-pound goal fell on him during team practice at New Century Park in Vernon Hills, according to a Lake County coroner's inquest. The boy's skull also was fractured by the 18-foot wide, 6 1/2-foot high goal post. The goal had not been properly anchored to the ground, despite manufacturer's warning labels recommending such anchoring, the coroner's jury found. As part of this week's settlement, soccer association officials acknowledged the "danger" of unanchored goals and adopted a policy to ensure portable goals are secured before all soccer activities, Kasserman said. Zachary was the 76th person nationwide to be killed or seriously injured as result of goals falling over, the attorney said..... More than 16 million children and adults play soccer in parks across the country, according to the Soccer Industry Council of America, an organization of equipment manufacturers.

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..... Bro. Tony Smulders who made the headlines a couple of years ago for harboring child pornography was found not guilty on all thirty counts. Some of the old timers may remember Bro. Tony who was President of the High & College group back in the day. Several of us had written letters on his behalf and Rich Molony testified at the trial. I attended it on the days I was working downtown LA. It is one of those things where the arrest makes the big splash and then nobody hears about it.....

Dick Lujan

Thought of the Month (attributed to Yogi Berra): You can observe a lot by watching.

These 6 characters were seen wearing funny shirts and bobby-sox at Trident School in Anaheim (photo courtesy of **Sanna Howell**)



Left to right: Gabriel “Worst-ref-in-town” Goldsman, Derek “Wanger” Taylor, Warren “Bluto” Howell, Heidi “Honey” Garlick, Larry “Don’t-need-no-stinking-seatbelt” Stern, Dan Damian. See also illustration on next page below.

SSBRA Board in action (AKA Meeting of the Grumpy Old Men)

