



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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www.ssbra.org

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PIGS COME HOME TO ROOST; TREASURER HAS LOTS OF WORK AHEAD, TO THE DELIGHT OF THE MEMBERS; BOARD MEMBER GOES FOR A RECORD

No doubt cutting vacations short and doing whatever it took to get to our newest venue (North Torrance High School at Yukon and 182nd St.), a plethora of SSBRA Members attended the August meeting. In fact 86 people signed the roster/attendance-sheet (or had someone sign it for them), which is about twice the legal capacity of our old meeting hall - but the library was up to the challenge, and there were seats for all. President **Keith Gendler** encouraged Treasurer **Tom Mallen** to start the speech making, and he did, claiming that there was the goodly sum of \$3500 in the bank, with 24 or so Members still unpaid for 2005-2006. He also sold a few SSBRA shirts that he had, cash on the barrelhead.

Then, Secretary **Warren Howell** took a turn; to the relief of those present, he showed that he finally understood that few of the Members are interested in what he has to say, and he kept his remarks brief. The roster (145 Members at that time), payments for 2005-2006 (being collected and recorded), new referee fee schedule (would be forthcoming) and the Flag and Whistle were mentioned in passing.

Webmaster **Lee Jordan** had more interesting news, and shared with the gathering the latest features of ssbra.org, and announced that the roster would be added there shortly for online access and (some) modifications by the Members, with appropriate security. He could not resist also informing us that new Member at Large **Steve McCall** recently issued 4 red cards in one match, claiming that such a performance was up to his own past standards and possibly a new record. Steve then got up and tried to justify all this (something about hot weather and short tempers), but most of the Members were not impressed.

As usual, Assignor **Bill Cook** had the most interesting stuff to talk about, and most of those there listened keenly as he started to speak. There were 5 tournaments so far in August, with good performances turned-in by the Membership, and \$17,100 in outstanding invoices waiting to be collected - when it is, Tom would risk carpal tunnel injury getting the checks out to those who did games. We even helped out other associations who had no shows at these tournaments, and there would be plenty of work for everyone over Labor Day once the schedules were set and he could get to assigning them. He then talked about, and passed out, nearly 100 of the new CSL books, which has all the fees (raised to \$1.20 a minute), fields, rules and other info you might need. Stunning the gathering, Bill then awarded Warren two of the much-coveted Golden Piggie awards, for doing way too many games at recent tournaments. Also receiving this valuable prize were **Ralph Quiroz** and **Paul Kelly** (in a tie). There was a many-way tie at another tournament, with **Dan Ayala, Gabriel Goldsman, Dick Haber, Lee Jordan, Larry Savell, Jeff Wilson, Mel Webster** and a couple of others all sharing in the glory. Bill talked about attending a CSL pre-season meeting, where assigning systems in general were discussed. Bill shared a number of statistics with us that came up in that meeting, all pointing to the growing popularity of the Beautiful Game. Other CSL information: players and coaches will and must have new ID cards this year, the home team supplies 3 copies of the roster for each team and an envelope, mail the completed roster back within 24 hours, referees should show-up at least 20 minutes before game time, the check-in procedure is the same as in the past (match player, ID card, and roster, check for safety issues), do not pull an ID card unless there is real violence involved, the number of referees that you fill in on the roster is always "3" (!) so Bill gets paid, no player casts or splints are allowed (even if they take them off after getting rejected at the pre-game safety check). At this point **Reza P., Derek Taylor, Lloyd Lehrer** and **Mike Takaki** voiced their thoughts about dangerous eye-glasses, with **Dan Damian** and **George Heggie** also saying a word or two about writing reports when an ambulance needs to be called. **Dick Eastman** started a discussion about matching referee socks, while **Pat Carlini** mentioned the challenges of old computers. Taking back the floor, Bill said that we were doing a good job by "doing the little things right," and being "invisible" as much as possible.

A wide-ranging, general discussion began at that point, with a number of Members freely making comments. **Larry Stern** explained and tried to answer questions about the rating system (10 weighted categories adding up to your score) and how to improve. As the Member with the highest ranking USSF grade, **Billy Cooke** was recognized, and made some remarks that were, alas, not understood by the Secretary. **Harry Ross**, to no ones surprise, had a grumpy comment to make about the rankings also. Taking a break, Keith had new attendees **Zack Harmon, Skip Jones, Phil Murray** and **Lauren Copley** stand up and talk about themselves, receiving the usual warm SSBRA welcome in return from the Members.

Stu Winter then asked to speak, and shocked everyone by sharing the terrible news that he has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. He is dedicating his time to the organization "Parents against Cancer," and can be reached on his cell at 480-3051 for further information and support.

Eric Winter reported on the Cal South camp he and brother **Michael** attended, sponsored by SSBRA. **Bob Hildreth** informed us about his progress on a history of SSBRA, which was founded in 1975 as near as anyone

can remember. He has already created a beginning draft, and Members are encouraged to contribute by contacting him. The high school group is recruiting (training in October), and Keith talked about the USSF re-clarification of the offside rule (go back to calling it the way we always have), and asked that the referee give pre-game instructions through from the start of the season through October or so to get us back into the swing of things.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 15, 2005

- met with representatives of the SBPSL and worked out various issues and procedures for the coming season for division 3, and possibly division 2 & 4 later
- a proposal to put the roster online at ssbra.org was presented by Lee and approved
- the Board was asked to rank the top 50 Members as additional information for the ranking committee
- Steve McCall was added to the ranking committee
- Bill shared his understanding of upcoming tournaments
- Tom and Warren discussed status of the collection of dues

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, AUGUST 30, 2005

- Applications were approved for **David Blenko**, Skip Jones, **Jay Foster**, **Zackery Harmon** and Lauren Copley.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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, AND A VISIT FROM PENNY REHM, WHO WILL ACCEPT YOUR 2006 USSF FEE AND ADMINISTER THE ANNUAL WRITTEN TEST - BRING YOUR RENEWAL FORMS AND CHECKBOOKS.

Thought of the Month (by Drew Carry): “Oh, you hate your job? Why didn't you say so? There's a support group for that. It's called ‘Everybody,’ and they meet at the bar.”

C'MON, RAISE THE FLAG (by Warren Howell); A tournament was held at Freedom Park in Camarillo on a fine summer's day, with one match in particular a GU12 contest. Referee Warren was assisted by Larry Savell, and a non-SSBRA Member, who will be called Jukka here. Jukka seemed like an odd duck before the match, but was doing a fine job assisting the referee once the match got underway. Then, late in the first half, the attacking team “A“, on a set DFK in their defensive half of the field near the half-way line, sent the ball sailing in the air toward the goal. There were only two players (besides the team “B” goalkeeper), A1 and A2 in the attacking half of the field, who were clearly in offside position - so much so that no other players moved as A1 and A2 gleefully chased the ball toward the goal. The referee, with the new offside clarification in mind (since re-clarified), waited till player A1 touched the ball, raised his arm and put his whistle to his mouth to blow the infraction. Glancing over at his AR however, he noticed that Jukka had not raised his flag, but was looking at

the referee attentively, as if all was well. Startled, the referee hesitated, taking a second look to insure that no defender was lurking unseen in the goal-mouth, as they sometimes do at this age. This gave player A1 time to pass the ball forward to A2 (another offside infraction), who one-touched it into the goal with great joy. The mean old referee however finally blew his whistle, and amongst much comment by the spectators, waved off the goal, signaled for the offside IFK, and delayed the restart while making a show of going over and talking to Jukka.

Me: "weren't they offside?"

Jukka: "oh yeah, they were all offside"

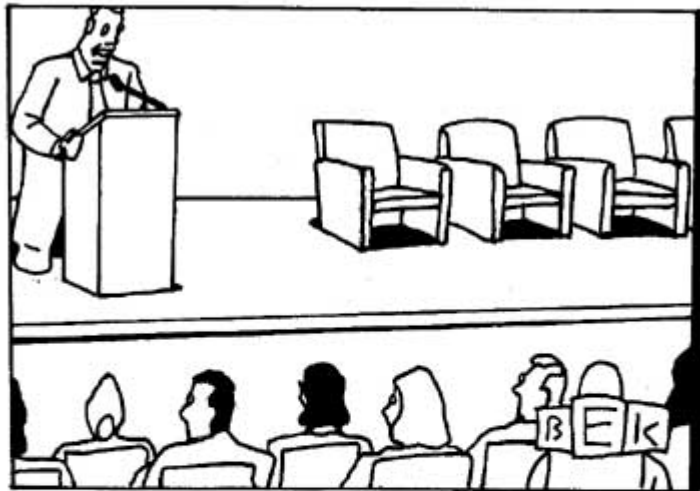
Me: "uh, why didn't you raise your flag?"

Jukka: "I couldn't decide which one to call offside on, so I didn't call it on either of them"

Me: "hmmmmm"

The discussion continued at half-time, and, while I have to admit that this situation was not covered specifically in my pre-game instructions, I did encourage both A.R.s to make calls as they saw them and wave their flags at will. Jukka, however, did not get it, and Warren made a mental note to vote against any future application of his for SSBRA membership that might come his way while he was serving on the Board.

One night at the monthly SSBRA meeting.....



"AFTERWARDS THERE WILL BE A BRIEF Q AND A
WHERE AT LEAST ONE AUDIENCE MEMBER CAN HOLD
US HOSTAGE WITH THEIR BLATHER FOR WHAT FEELS
LIKE AN ETERNITY."

