



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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A NEW RECORD AGAIN FOR SSBRA IN NOVEMBER; COAST LEAGUE RULES DISPARAGED; USSF REGISTRATION CRASHES-AND-BURNS

November saw the end of the Club soccer season, and the start of many Members being distracted by the beginning of the High School season. Indeed, several Members were known to be absent from the November monthly meeting for just the reason that they were on the pitch at high school matches, while several others were late, having come directly from games. By the end of the meeting 47 referees had signed the roster, taking advantage of the camaraderie and training available therein, not to mention the chance to voice their own opinion on about anything that came to mind. One of these was **Frank Troeger, who** expressed his opinions and experiences with keeping goals tied-down. Others, including our President **Keith Gendler**, also let their views be known, and the consensus was that the goals much always be secured - there is too much at risk to do otherwise. **Derek Taylor** submitted several web-sites (see below) that should be read by all, to enforce how serious the issue is.

Spying the late-arriving **Gabriel Goldsman** and **Larry Stern**, Keith gave both Board Members a chance to address the group. Both declined, actually claiming to have nothing to say, contrary to the normal custom of our organization. Keith then gave Secretary **Warren Howell** the opportunity to speak, and he was happy to do so.

The first item he had was to announce that the 2006 USSF registration list was out of service due to technical problems, and would not be repaired any time soon. He also mentioned that, even if the listings were repaired, the badges themselves were arriving late and/or sporadically, so many of those who had duly registered would be technically unprepared to officiate at games starting January 1, 2006, though of course that was unimportant in this case. As usual Warren had been instructed to check the SSBRA roster against the USSF registration list, which, though temporally problematic, would get done eventually. He apologized in advanced if he missed any registrations on the 2006 list (when it became available) due to different names being used on the two lists, noting in particular that he had missed **Rick Guerin** last year for that reason, and that figuring out which name **Heidi Garlick** was using from one month to the next was always a challenge. Ignoring those Members who were starting to nod-off after all this, Warren plunged ahead into the next item, youth referee addresses on the roster. It seems that, since the roster could be considered in the public domain, the publications of youth referee addresses is not a good idea in the current legal climate. As a result, Warren would be sending out an e-mail to our youth referees and/or their guardians, asking them for permission to publish, or not. Anticipating a lack of response to this, the message would be so worded that by failing to respond, your address could be published. Warren sat down at this point, as no one had requested that he speak any longer.

Lee Jordan announced the news that Rick Guerin had had heart surgery, but was back at home and doing well under the circumstances. Many expressed their best wishes and a speedy recovery.

Keith then started a discussion of Law 11, and to no ones surprise, a lively debate ensued. Among those not too shy to express their views were **Gene Ogle, Larry Savel, Dick Eastman, Derek Taylor, Ed McClure, Ed Beverly,** and others, often talking over one another in trying to make a point.

This all lead up to the main event of the evening, a first showing of the newly purchased video equipment, used in this case to show a training film on "Player Management." By using the built-in pull-down screen available in the North library, it was seen that the device did an excellent job of presenting the material, which was viewed with interest by all. A discussion of the film took place afterward, with more points of view exchanged. Green cards were also passed out, and Ed McClure wanted to be sure that everyone kept in mind the possibility of making nominations through the winter, and that the program guidelines would soon appear on the web-site for easy reference.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, NOVEMBER 11, 2005

- The USSF 2006 registration list is messed-up, and the delivery of badges is slow; Warren to mention at monthly meeting.
- Little green card interest/nominations so far, hope it gets better when high school season starts.
- SBPSL refereeing discussed, especially one problem game. Suggestions for mentoring and/or special sessions for those who work those games and deal with their special problems proposed. No decision reached.
- The idea of SSBRA doing Ladies League and SBPSL division 1 & 2 was thrown around, as the group currently covering them seems to be facing special challenges lately.
- Newly purchased video equipment demonstrated for the Board, and is to be used at the next monthly meeting for training. Perhaps audio equipment should be purchased next.
- Larry reported he wants to start a cycle of ranking the newer and lower-ranked referees (in the bottom half) soon. A certain long-time Member was proposed as a possible addition to the ranking committee.
- On the week-end of November 5 SSBRA worked 143 games with 100% coverage, clearly the most of any week-end in our history, and remarkable when compared to the number of names (including those inactive and

unavailable) on the roster

- In the just-concluded CSL season we covered 975 games using 120 different referees. Sixty-one refs covered U9/U10 matches, 69 did U16-U19, and 45 did U17-U19, all with 100% coverage.
- The Irvine tournament is scheduled and covered.
- No-show (forfeit) money for a Member was discussed, and it was decided to pay him.
- We may want to draw a line in the sand this year; better rooms for referees at Bakersfield State Cup matches or SSBRA will not participate.
- There is about \$4600 in the bank with no significant outstanding bills to pay.
- Lee reported that a prototype of the new roster system was ready for Board testing
- Warren was instructed to announce at the next monthly meeting that he would send out an e-mail addressing the youth referee address publication problem.
- A discussion ensued about how to talk to and help referees who want better games.
- Keith talked about the Member survey he is putting together, will test it on the Board first while perhaps incorporating some of the suggestions made by those present..

Derek Taylor has submitted the following web-sites that address tying down goals:

All of the incidents that we are aware of are indeed in the US. The reported incidents from 1979-2003 are documented on this website: <http://members.tripod.com/goalsafety/incidents.htm>

Since the last reported death in that list (10/1/03), we know of 4 other serious injuries and 3 deaths. Many of these stories can be found at: http://www.anchoredforsafety.org/parents_family_stories.html

The injuries are typically not formally reported and do not make the news. We mainly hear about the injuries by word of mouth. The deaths however do make the news.

The 28th reported death was a boy in Owasso OK, on Feb 22, 2004

<http://www.kotv.com/main/home/storiesPrint.asp?id=78258&type=t>

The next death was a 12 year old boy in San Jose, CA on April 22, 2004.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/gate/archive/2004/04/22/goalpost1.DTL>

The latest death (#30) was in Houston on June 14th, 2005.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3226514.html>

In addition to these news reports, there have been many other on the general dangers of unsafe soccer goals.

These news reports can be found at:

<http://www.anchoredforsafety.org/media.html>

The report from Cincinnati is particularly good at exposing the dangers of unsafe soccer goals.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

PER THE USUAL CUSTOM THERE WILL, ALAS, BE NO MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER 2005 NOR A FLAG AND WHISTLE. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182ND ST. AGENDA TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, TRAINING AND A SPECIAL SURPRISE.

Thought of the Month (from an unidentified CSL BU11 player, when told before a match that, per league rules, if his team manager did not show up with his team's ID cards soon then there would be no game): "That's whack!"

Quote of the Month (attributed to the late George Best): “ I spent most of my money on booze and women, and squandered the rest.”

“Final Score: Shopping Cart 1, Bluto 0” (by W. Howell)

The end of November marks the return of High School soccer, and Warren had the good fortune to be on hand at the Santa Monica High School track field to help get things started. Joining him was **Kevin Cronin** who, though not currently an SSBRA Member, is well-known throughout the Westside soccer community for his years of dedicated service on the pitch. Both referees were well-prepared for the double-header featuring the Santa Monica and Mira Costa girls teams, and no one was disappointed at the competitive soccer on display into the second half of the junior varsity game. About mid-way through the period, with Warren facing the field near the halfway line and close to the touch line, active play turned his way, and a number of players came rushing toward the edge of the field in pursuit of the ball. Not wanting to interfere with the action, he started backpedaling quickly, keeping play in view while making every effort to get off the field in time. Using his well-known speed and agility, he was successful in crossing the touch line safely, or so it was thought. However, Warren noticed that his perspective of the surroundings had changed and the whole scene seemed to be distorted, with everything going into a kind of swirling motion. It was only after landing flat on his back covering lanes 1, 2 and 3 of the running track that he realized that he had tripped over something while moving backwards and taken a spectacular pratfall. It took no more than an instant for the question of what he had tripped over to be answered, as a shopping cart and about a dozen soccer balls that had been contained therein landed on top of his prone form - apparently the Santa Monica squad uses this clever device to hold the balls during warm-ups and practices. Play instantly stopped, with 6 to 8 players rushing over to look to the well-being of the referee now blocking the track. Though the whole thing seemed to take place in slow motion (at least to the one who fell), it must have been a dramatic sight, as all of the girls voiced real concern. The Santa Monica coach, showing the insight and intelligence that we have come to expect from his ilk, then asked, gesturing to the shopping cart, “do you want me to move this out of your way?” Since I was at that point at the bottom of a large though disorganized pile of shopping cart and soccer balls, with little chance of arising any time soon without assistance, I answered in the affirmative. After an interval I did arise, none the worse for my misadventure, though the girls kept asking after my health, and would not re-start the match until I insisted by blowing my whistle (for the record, I restarted with a throw-in for the defensive team, having no idea what happened in the match after I started reclining on the red rubberized running track). Kevin gave me a 10 (out of 10) for form and execution of my fall, which meant a lot coming from such a veteran official. One of the parents however, in a humorous manner, mentioned after the match that a referee sobriety test might be in order - I declined, getting the last word in by indicating that I might not pass such a test at that particular time.

NEW TECHNOLOGY: The picture below shows the latest in referee equipment, which should be obtained and used by all SSBRA Members ASAP.

