



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

February 28, 2006

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www.ssbra.org

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BILL GETS A SURPRISE, AND KEITH IS STARTLED; DAN HAS A SUGGESTION; LEE IS EXPOSED

A number of Members were at the 2/28 meeting early, ready to get a good seat - no doubt so as to not miss a single word of the ruminations of the Board (or not). Alas, the room was already being used for another meeting, and we had to cool our heels for a few minutes till those good folks departed, though not so long that the start of our meeting was delayed. It had been decided earlier to remind the Members that no food nor beverages were allowed in the library, but the prior meeting supplied a couple of cases of leftover soft drinks and water when they left to SSBRA, and these beverages were quickly grabbed and started to be drunk by the early-arriving Members. So, the Secretary's planned warning about that subject went unsaid (sigh). For some reason President **Keith Gendler** invited **Warren Howell** to speak first anyway, and he proved once again that he is seldom at a loss for words. He talked about the continuing USSF 2006 registration problems, both with getting on the list (at least one Member who finally made it to the list was then mysteriously removed), and of getting your badges from Chicago once you are listed permanently. Penny Rehm at penny@peprgraphics.com has offered to help with Chicago to get the badges for any Member who sends her an e-mail, or you can send your complaint to secretary@ssbra.org to forward to her. However, Warren warned that he may not be on Penny best side, as he has been pointing out these problems on a regular basis. Acknowledging that there were 148 Members on the roster, Warren then made a speech about ridesharing, reminding all, but especially our

new Members, that ridesharing is encouraged, and that no one should have to turn down an assignment (or ride alone) because of a transportation issue. He suggested that one could call your partners, call a Board member, call someone, and that a ride will be arranged. He added the caveat that this did not apply to **Lee Jordan**, who has never been known to drive a carpool himself, an idea with which **Ed McClure** whole-heartedly agreed.

Keith took back the floor, and after recognizing **Marty Jeffers** for some reason, announced that awards had been made to **Billy Cooke** (who was not present), **Larry Stern** (who showed up later after the Spring League meeting) and Lee Jordan - see the details below. Then it was time for Treasurer **Tom Mallen** to take a bow, and he did so by announcing that we had \$4033 in the bank. At this point **Dan Damian** made the suggestion that we use of part of the money to buy some #\$\$%#@ \$ USSF 2006 badges, which actually made some sense to a number of those present.

New attendees were introduced to the 50 Members in attendance; **Melanie Rhino, John Stott, John Hebben** and **Greg Brown**. They quickly started enjoying the friendly SSBRA atmosphere, and indulged in telling a little about themselves in an amusing fashion - Greg confessed that, as a coach, he had been known to yell at referees, which brought the expected reaction from the Members. Who knows what reaction there would have been to all this if more Members had been present, but at least Marty, Lee, **Heidi Garlick, Tom Dyroff** and **Kirk Zielomski** (and possibly others) had been engaged officiating the late rounds of the high school play-offs that day, and so their lateness/absence was completely understandable and written off as the price to be paid for having such well thought of referees in the Association.

Ed McClure then stood up and started talking about the still-active sportsmanship (green card) program, and stated that there would be extra money available from the treasury for this purpose, if necessary. This statement took Keith by surprise (he was heard saying “huh?”), but his objections were quickly overcome by the rest of the Board. Ed shared that he had also been doing a lot of research on the mentoring program, and hoped to arrange a meeting in March.

It was stated the **Bill Cook** and Larry Stern were at the Spring League meeting, and that there had been many problems in the past, including very late payments, lots of forfeits, etc. which they hoped to work out in advance of the season this time. Bill and Larry did make it to the end of the SSBRA meeting and reported that the games/season starts this week-end(!), throwing Bill’s carefully planned assignments into disarray. As usual there will be a \$5 a game bonus for single games paid by the league at the end of the season, and a mud-line, with most of the field directions being available in the CSL book. Fee/rules are the same as CSL, all coaches and players must have ID cards for some team, a roster may or may not be provided, do not collect any money from anyone on the field if there is a forfeit (there will be many of those), and the new “sub at any stoppage with the referee’s permission” rule is in force.

The main event of the evening was a presentation by Dr. **Harry Grody**, a State Referee instructor, who explained the ins and outs of giving Law 12 cautions. Warming to the audience, he mentioned his long-time friendship with **Joe Robelotto** (who made a pitch for the Watts Games June 10-11 and 17-18) and Billy Cooke, and confessed that he was justifiably thrown out of the third game he ever coached years ago. While going over the Laws and Advice to Referees (and putting the SSBRA visual equipment to good use), he impressed that upon seeing an action the key question to ask yourself is; Does it matter to play, or to game control, or to the spirit of the game? Other factors are advantage, and timing (early/late in the game)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JANUARY 23, 2006

- Spring league and problems thereof were discussed, of which there were many. The possibility of SSBRA not participating in Spring League was proposed as an option, because of the constant chaos. Bill and Larry to go to the Spring League meeting on Tuesday and present our concerns
- Heidi has arranged for Dr. Gordy to speak/instruct at the 2/28 meeting
- Ed has researched mentoring programs, and found there is a lot of information out there. Critical is to train the mentors
- accepted applications for **Veto Galati, Gregory Brown, Gregory Tardaguilla and Jose Serrano**
- rejected another application
- \$4116 in the bank, the "Allison Dewart" check is still pending, computer checks not ordered yet
- Lee has completed phase 1 of his secret task
- the 1/31 meeting was discussed, it was felt it went well and that Steve Davidson was excellent
- still need audio equipment
- after an opinionated discussion, it was decided either that the 2-man system, or diagonal with a club linesman, can be used if only 2 referees show up at any SBPSL 3 match, at the discretion of the referee
- one Member told of his problems at a game with a high-ranking but non-SSBRA Member referee. There was a discussion as to whether to accept this individual if that person applies for Membership at some point

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

- accepted applications for **Jonathan Hebben, Melanie Rhino, Jon Stott and Daniel Wooten**

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182ND ST. , WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND TRAINING.

Seven Ways to Manage Your Conversations (submitted by John Moody):

Dealing with adversarial relationships can be tough. These seven tips will make your difficult job a bit easier.

1. Pause before responding. Let the other person get more words in if he wants. Don't cut him off; that only exacerbates the situation. In responding, avoid using words like "but" and "however" because they usually cancel out the first part of a sentence, lessening the message. "I understand the situation but we're going to have to ..." is an example of how the word "but" lessened the effect of the initial positive statement "I understand."

2. Discreetly praise players. Congratulate them on good plays and encourage sportsmanship. You can win over many players with a kind word; that can help you later in the game if problems arise.

3. No matter whom you're dealing with, apply the "golden rule." Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Be reasonable with the words you choose and the tone you use. It will go a long way to handling situations effectively.

4. It's OK to say you made a mistake. Honesty is your best policy. Under no circumstances should you try to lie your way out of trouble. People know and then they'll think you can't be trusted. Lying fuels their negative perceptions of officials.

An old school of thought in officiating was, "Never admit making a mistake." That theory has gone away over time. If you blew a call, it's OK to admit it quietly to the coach or player. Many times, they'll respect you more for that than if you tried to twist the truth and equivocate. Most coaches understand you can't change judgment calls, but admitting you missed it often ends the argument. Do it too often however and your reputation will suffer.

5. If a coach or player is begging, listen to that person. If a reply is necessary, reply with an even tone. Be brief. Do not use sarcasm or put-downs. Acknowledge the person that you've heard and understand the complaint. That's not an admission of guilt or error on your part; it merely shows the person you are listening. Many times, all the person wants is to be heard.

6. You may be able to smile or use humor to diffuse a potentially volatile situation. Be careful; what you think might be funny may not at all be to the person, thus adding to the problem. However, smiles and a deflective word can work in the heat of battle. An official who can chuckle or smile is in control. An official who can't see the humor in a situation may be perceived to be uptight.

However, officials shouldn't get into joke telling. It's simply too dangerous because people differ in what amuses them. What you might think is a great joke might offend the listener. Try humor sparingly and make it as light as possible.

Humorous attempts can also cause problems. Here's an example that didn't work.

A basketball player missed a free throw and used a four-letter word, which the referee heard. The referee said, "Hey, what if your mother heard you say that word?" The player responded, "My mother died a month ago." Discretion is the byword.

7. Don't ever utter the phrase, "It's just a game." Few phrases turn participants to rage quicker than that one. Remember, they've worked all week, all season and all their careers for that game. It is critically important to them, no matter what the sport or level. That phrase is often interpreted by coaches and players as a flippant "I don't care" response. Basically, it is demeaning.

Follow those seven tips when dealing with players and coaches and the relationships developed will be positive for the game.

School Days (submitted by **Ernesto Perez**):

Hello Gentlemen,

It is Ernesto Perez of Palos Verdes High School, (310)415-0390. I recently talked to you guys about my senior project. I have chosen the dates for my classes. They are as follows:

Friday March 10th from 7pm to 10pm for the adult referees.

Saturday March 11th from 1pm to 5pm for the youth referees.

Sunday March 12th from 8am to 5pm for both groups.

All classes will be held at:

Palos Verdes High School 600 Cloyden Road Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 Room 307

PalosVerdesHigh.com

If you could help pass the word along that would be great.

We will cover many topics including:

- Offside
- Positioning
- Fouls and Misconducts
- Professionalism
- Referee appearance
- Field work (Sunday only)

For those who will attend these classes they will need to bring these items:

- The law book
- A notebook
- Comfortable clothes
- Running shoes (Sunday only)
- Flags (Sunday only)
- And a whistle (Sunday only)

From Bob Bobadilla:

To all of the Referee Associations:

Last Saturday we came together to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of the Cal South referees. Different Referee Associations submitted approximately 25 nominations to be recognized. The group of referees included a wide variety of expertise and contribution, from people who recently started refereeing to individuals who have been a part of the program for many years. Mr. **Toros Kibritjian** was recognized for his 50 years of active refereeing and contributions to the program. Three new members, **Anton "Doug" Groot**, William "Billy" Cooke and **Raul Mathews**, received the distinguished John O. Best Leadership & Service Award.

(In a few days, you can see pictures of the event on the SRC website <http://californiareferee.org/>)

One of the objectives of the event was to select a Cal South nominee for the 2005 Region IV Referee of the Year. With all of the great candidates submitted by your Referee Associations, it was a difficult decision to make.

The Cal South Referee of the year is **Ted Villaluz**, and his name will be submitted to Region IV as our 2005 nominee. Ted's performance on and off the field of play and his involvement with the program, are an excellent example of the Cal South Referee program.

Refereeing is a rewarding but challenging profession which normally does not receive a lot of recognition. This type of events will generate good morale for the referees, referee associations and the overall referee community.

We thank you for helping us make this event a success and please, continue to support our referees by recognizing their efforts :)

SRC

Please Don't (by **Bill Robinson**, submitted by **Larry Savell**):

Last week, I was running the line on a Boy's Varsity game, and early in the first half, the coach for the white team commented to me:

"Sir, you might notice that my number eight's shirt is now two sizes too big for him." It took me a few seconds to work out what he was trying to tell me.....

Later, in the second half, the blue team had a rare breakaway and a solo attacker ran 20 yards or so to score their second goal (in their 7 - 2 defeat). The coach and I had this exchange:

"Sir, wasn't Blue Three offside just then?"

"No sir"

"Are you sure?"

"Absolutely, coach"

"Well, I am still going to put you down as an assist on that one."