



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March 31, 2006

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[www.ssbra.org](http://www.ssbra.org)

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Training: Heidi Garlick

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Jordan

### ASSAULT INVOLVING SSBRA REFEREE TEAM AT NIKE CUP TOURNAMENT; SUREND TAKES OVER AND GABRIEL SPEAKS HIS MIND; JON GETS WHAT HE DESERVES

A hard rain and storm did not stop 49 SSBRA Members from a boys (and girls) night out on the last Tuesday in March, and they were rewarded with the usual related pleasures that we have come to expect. After calling the gathering to order, President **Keith Gendler** asked for **Warren Howell** to give a short Secretary's report. Warren only had a few items to mention, remarking that the roster now listed 152 Members in good standing. Also he mentioned that the USSF 2006 badge/registration situation had improved a bit but could still be better, with some more Members getting their badges, including an Association-leading 3 for **Heidi Garlick**. The deadline is June 15, 2006, and Penny is scheduled to make an appearance on September to start things going for the 2007 badges. He then mentioned an error in the last F&W, and reminded the gathering that Law 8 specifically requires a coin flip to determine kick-off direction/possession at the start of a match.

**Tom Mallen** took the floor and reported \$3813.57 in the bank, with nothing on the horizon for immediate payment. He then said that State Cup no-show monies were due some Members, and after an informal discussion the Board seemed to feel that those payments could be made out of the SSBRA treasury rather than waiting for payment from the tournament, as that would still be a long time coming.

After prospective new Member **Rick Gates** was introduced to the crowd, assignor **Bill Cook** had a turn. He talked about the busy week-end just passed (including games with a team visiting from England), and talked about the large number of games and shortage of referees to cover them all on the upcoming week-end. In fact, he had to turn down all 5 fields offered for the Nike tournament, but is still short. To make things easier, he has arranged for free motel rooms in Lancaster for those who are working matches there this week-end and want them.

**Ed McClure** reported on the good progress made on the mentor program - draft documents have been made, potential mentors and mentees have been identified and a meeting held. With one more meeting to iron out the last details, it is felt we will be ready to go.

**Lee Jordan** then stood up, and remarked that he did not know how to say what he wanted to say (at which point **Dick Eastman** suggested that if he had nothing to say then he should sit down). Plunging on anyway, Lee asked **Jon Ziegler** to come forward and presented him with a fancy referee watch in recognition of his years of service to SSBRA and South Bay soccer. Jon was surprised, but after gathering himself he managed to say a few kind and generous words about the gift and our growing Association. Acknowledging the passing of the years, he also shared with the group that he had been mostly inactive due to some injuries for the last few months, but was starting to get better and hoped to become more active soon. Lee did not get off quite that easily though, as an recent adventure of his was circulated among the gathering. It seems that last Sunday morning, Lee "Never-drive-if-I-can-help-it" Jordan was forced to go alone to a PSL match featuring FRAM and PV. Waiting till the last minute (or later) to leave his house, his motorcycle-propelled self found La Cienega Blvd. closed, and the taking of detours was necessary for our luckless center referee. This slowed him down considerably, and he finally made it to Nansen (FRAM's home field) a mere 18 minutes before game time - only to discover that he was at the wrong field (doh!). Making some frantic calls, he determined that PV's home field would be a better choice and, bending a few traffic laws, was able to get to the proper field fairly close to the scheduled start time. His partners **Tony Amalfitano** and **Mike Hassani** had saved the day by checking in the players etc. in his absence, and the kick-off was only delayed by a few minutes, or so he says.

A couple of questions for the Board were then asked by those in the audience. **Dan Damian** wanted to know why the "all venues" boxes sometimes disappeared from the availability page for the current week, and Bill explained that that indicated he had "downloaded" the availability data from the system to do the assigning - when you see that, you will have to contact him directly on changes to your availability, as he will no longer look at any changes you may make on the screen. Dick Eastman then asked what the referees are to do with the rosters after the Spring League matches, and it was suggested that you keep them and then throw them away later, or sign them and give them back to the teams if they want them - there are neither scores nor standings recorded in Spring League, and therefore game results are meaningless. Bill then went on to say that you may get confusing e-mails from the Spring League assigning system as games change, but you can ignore them as the SSBRA system will give you the real scoop. **Dave Sena** then stood up, and introduced his son **Keith Sena**, who is a local soccer player whose team is raising money for a planned trip to Holland this summer. Dave was holding an Galaxy ticket auction, and Keith was selling candy, to raise money for this good cause. Heidi then took the floor, apologizing for a confusing e-mail that had went out, and then smoothly introduced the featured speaker of the evening, National referee and South Bay high school assignor **Steve Elliott**.

Well-known to most of those present, Steve quickly took over the meeting, remarking on how impressive it was that such a large number of referees would turned out for the meeting in such foul weather. Warming up, he

talked about how he thought it would be a good idea if an Advanced Referee Development Program would be started on the Westside, so that advanced ideas and techniques could be discussed and practiced. He also encouraged the referee teams to carpool to and from the games (a long-held SSBRA tradition) in order to provide the opportunity to discuss various situations and techniques, learning from each other. Getting to the highlight of the meeting, he organized a 3v3 “game” with 2 A.R.s in the library itself in order to help illustrate some points. The game began, and play they did, with all those present showing keen interest in the unexpected action. **Gene Ogle, Larry Stern, Bob Slater, Ed Beverly** and others had plenty to say, but not as much as Steve, as **Dave Mallen, Dan Damian, Rudy Chavez, Don Young, Ernesto Perez** and other young studs showed that they knew how to play. At one point Rudy grabbed Dan, spun him around and threw him to the ground like a bag of cement - and just like in a real SBPSL league game, there was no call, causing Steve to temporarily stop the action to voice his displeasure. A great time was had by all, with Steve using the “game” to bring out a number of advanced points for the referees to consider. Moving on as the players became fatigued, Steve then turned on the useful SSBRA video equipment to show clips of recent (3-man referee system) high school play-off games. Kindly, Steve saved his harshest words about the video action for non-SSBRA Members, or at least those SSBRA Members who were not present. Making an exception however, he pointed out an alternative way that A.R. **Gabriel Goldsman** could have signaled for keepers movement at a penalty kick, which caused much comment, as one would expect.

As the meeting was ending, Dave Sena got a call and was able to announce that he was a new grandfather (again), much to the delight and congratulations of the Members.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 20, 2006**

- the situation with USSF 2006 badges has improved; in fact, **Heidi Garlick** somehow now has three of them (!)
- the first-time performance of a new SSBRA referee was discussed; did OK
- Warren is to remind the Members that the Laws of the Game (Law 8) specifically require a coin flip at the start of matches; using any other method (except where so dictated by tournament/league officials) is forbidden.
- Keith pointed out that last month’s speaker’s name is Harvey Gordy, contrary to what appeared in the F&W. Dr. Gordy’s presentation was also discussed
- Tom reported \$3811 in the bank, and plans on having the check printing software in place in time for the Nike tournament pay-outs
- Bill reported that things were going “super” in his world, and that the upcoming week-end would be busy and had been all assigned. The following week-end would also have as many games as we can handle available at the various sites. The usual Spring league problems were discussed (late changes and cancellations) again.
- Heidi announced that Steve Elliot would be our speaker at the March meeting. Possible future speakers for the following months through October were also tentatively planned
- After some encouragement, Gabriel Goldsman agreed to tell his communication story before Steve’s presentation on Tuesday. He also told the group about an “assault” that he witnessed in a high school match against a non-SSBRA referee
- a long discussion was held on the documents and plans for the mentor program that has been developed by Ed McClure. Also, his New Member Welcome program would be started and run by Gabriel, Don Young and **Jim Wharton**
- Lee Jordan reported that the roster software was not ready, as the project had initially experienced scope-creep

and was now suffering from scope-compression. The remaining part of his secret task is still open, and a lot of new content has gone into our ever-expanding web-site

- **Larry Stern** has arranged for the ranking committee to meet on March 21, the attendees of which will be Larry, **Frank Troeger**, Bill Cook and Warren Howell

- Ed pointed out that the school has asked that we move the May meeting due to a schedule conflict with a school activity, mainly because there will be no parking. Since this is the election meeting, the timing is bad, and alternatives were discussed. It was agreed that the best solution is to move the whole meeting to the eating establishment, and so a place large enough to handle the 100 or so Members expected to attend will be reserved

- a Member request for a clarification on players wearing jewelry was discussed, but no definitive answer could be reached

- Audio equipment purchase is still being looked into

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 28, 2006**

- the applications for membership of **Joey Edmond** and **Rick Gates** were accepted

**Thought of the Month** (attributed to Steve Jobs):

“The only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle.”

**Give me that whistle!** (submitted by Warren Howell);

A hard-fought and vocal BU15 match was well underway, with center referee Rudy Chavez doing all the right things to keep the game under control, and **Surend Menon** helping as A.R. on one side of the field. With Rudy being shielded from view by a crowd of players early in the second half, a foul took place against player “A1” in front of Surend, who raised and toggled the flag to indicate to Rudy that misbehavior had occurred outside of the center referee’s vision. The nearby coach of team “A” decided to help by quickly yelling at Rudy to “look at your linesman!” But then the coach’s face took on a look of priceless astonishment when Rudy came over to the sideline to confer, as Surend, after a couple of words, took Rudy’s whistle, handed him the flag and instantly took over as center referee! While he had no doubt seen and heard disagreements within referee teams before, this was quite certainly the first time the coach had seen a demotion and changing of the guard (or mutiny on the pitch) in the middle of the match - a clear case of an **assistant** referee **insisting**. Surend held firm and did center the rest of the match, even issuing a couple of yellow cards and a red card along the way, till the match drew to an end.

.....well, actually Rudy’s leg had given out on him and he asked Surend to take over since he could not continue in the center, but the look of surprise on the coach’s face really was there and was priceless, till it was explained to him.....

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182<sup>ND</sup> ST. , WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND TRAINING.**

**Irate spectator attacks** (submitted by Warren Howell - note, this is not the same game as above);

A sizeable crowd was on hand on a March Sunday at Moorpark College to enjoy a BU15 Nike Tournament match, which proved to be played with both skill and spirit, and watched with plenty of enthusiasm by the spectators. Rudy Chavez was doing his usual fine job as the center referee, with Surend Menon and Warren doing what they could to help out in the traditional A.R. roles. In the first half there were a number of offside calls for Warren to make, and he raised the flag on some, and left it down on others, more or less at random as the mood struck him. A father on the far sideline (away from Warren) was keeping up with the second to last defender also from his side of the field, and, alas, vocally disagreed with every call Warren made that went against his attacking team. The referees discussed the situation at half-time, with Warren observing that his problems were over, since the vocal spectator would now be “helping” Surend with the calls, and would be on the same side of the field to boot. Sure enough, on the second offside call that he made against that team at the start of the second half, the parent went into a tirade aimed at Surend. Rudy came over and had the coach ask the gentleman to leave, which he did after a few more choice words, and the match continued and finished without further incident. But, while the three referees were at the center circle doing the preliminaries to start the next match, Rudy happened to notice that the unhappy spectator from the just-finished game had returned, and was hanging around the area where we had left our bags etc., though Rudy did not think much of it at the time. However, upon going back to that area in final preparation for the next match, he observed that the disgruntled parent had struck, leaving a handful of melting ice cubes on the seat of Rudy’s chair(!). Taken aback, we reported the incident to the on-site tournament administrators, trying to determine the ramifications of an assault on a sports officials chair. Since the evil-doer had made good his getaway, no other damage was detected, and the legal situation was unclear, we decided to not call in law enforcement personnel at that time, which worked out OK as the perpetrator was not seen again that day.

Gabriel Goldsman can be seen on the following page having a candid and open exchange of views with two coaches at a recent high school play-off game.

